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THE TIMES AT 10p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

## Power chief makes £1.2m in share options deal

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

LABOUR called for immediate Government action to curb boardroom excesses yesterday after a privatised industry executive made more than £567,000 by selling his share options.

Granville Camsey, a senior board member at National Power, exercised the option to buy more than 300,000 shares in the company and immediately sold them at more than double the original price.

Four of the directors of the company have made profits in excess of £2 million between them on share options, according to Labour.

Mr Camsey's bonus is more than the £475,000 salary of Cedric Brown, the British Gas chief executive, or its chairman Richard Giordano, who earns £450,000. Both faced

open revolt over their pay this week and demands for their resignation from small shareholders.

The shares bonus is also six times the amount that Clare Spottiswoode, the gas industry regulator, earns. She caused an outcry this week by asking for a pay increase from £70,000 to £110,000.

The Prime Minister has insisted that the Government can take no action until the publication of the report of a Confederation of British Industry inquiry into boardroom pay by Sir Richard Greenbury.

But Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said yesterday that the Government could no longer hide behind the CBI report when the public were "so obviously appalled

by the perks and privileges directors are getting away with".

He warned that the abuses were escalating and prompt action was urgently needed. "Far from the scandal of share options diminishing, the abuses are getting worse."

Mr Camsey, 58, managing director of group technology for the generating company, was granted options on 136,815 shares in April 1991 and on a second batch of 79,069 in December that year. Under the scheme he was yesterday permitted to buy the first batch at £2.01 per share and the second at £2.15 per share before selling them at the current market price of £4.69. For an outlay of £445,000 he was able to make an overall profit of £567,499, on which he

is liable for Capital Gains Tax. He has options on a further batch of 98,828 shares.

National Power last night defended the windfall and said it was in line with normal business practice in the private sector.

A spokesman said: "These share options were granted in 1991. They are now well over their original mature date — he could have drawn them last year but decided to take them this year — and they are a reflection of the way the company's share value has gone."

He added: "When National Power was floated there was no criticism in the press that these shares were undervalued. Indeed there were warnings at the time they may not be a good bet for the ordinary shareholder."

## Tories try to ease mortgage burden

By Nicholas Wood and Liz Dolan

MINISTERS are to look at ways to stimulate the housing market and to try to help more than a million homebuyers caught in the mortgage trap.

Hints that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is ready to bow to political and commercial pressure for Budget measures to ease the pain of "Middle England" came 24 hours after John Major provoked a storm by appearing to blame reckless borrowing in the late 1980s for the lack of confidence now.

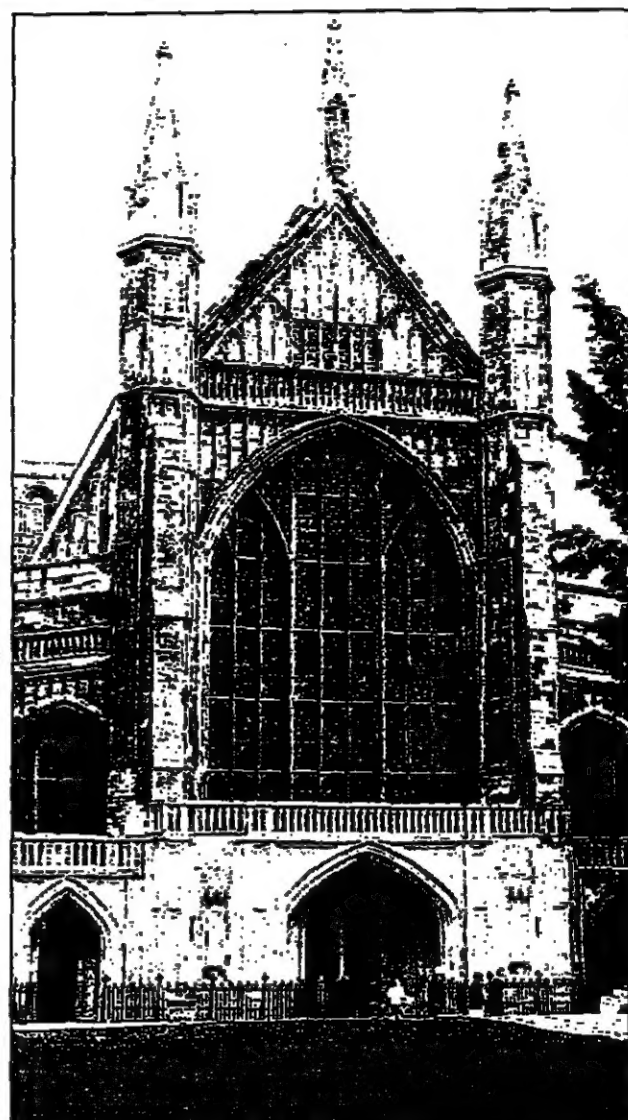
They also coincided with renewed signs that the housing market is heading back into recession. The Halifax Building Society reported that house prices in April had fallen by 0.7 per cent, and by 1.4 per cent during the past year. In the same month, just 85,000 homes changed hands, the lowest monthly figure since records began in 1977.

However, a plan touted by a number of Tory MPs under which homeowners saddled with houses worth less than their mortgages would be given tax breaks to escape their negative equity was being viewed sceptically in Whitehall last night. Treasury and Downing Street officials indicated that it was unlikely that Mr Clarke would take up the specific proposals put to him two weeks ago by David Shaw, Tory MP for Dover.

Detailed proposals are still some way off, but Mr Clarke's options to stimulate the market could include a stamp-duty holiday and scrapping plans to make the unemployed responsible for meeting their mortgage payments for the first nine months.

The pressure on the Chancellor intensified yesterday with a warning from Roger Humber, director of the House Builders Federation, that unless Mr Clarke acted immediately to stimulate the market the Government faced electoral oblivion.

Prices fall, page 24



Winchester Cathedral, still awaiting a new bishop

## Winchester hunt

Continued from page 1

be chosen and submitted to John Major, given that the commission also has to find suitable men to fill vacancies at London and Portsmouth.

One insider said: "Many people no longer feel it is an enormous privilege to be offered these jobs. To be Bishop of London, for example, the third most senior job in the Church, is considered a crown of thorns."

Sources say commission members are facing exhaustion, having already had to find new bishops for St Albans and Derby, which were both announced in the past two weeks, and having chosen the Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, for York.

While it is highly unusual for a diocese to be without a

bishop for as long as Winchester has, insiders say it is likely to be more common, as a quarter of the 43 diocesan bishops are due to retire before the end of the century.

Christina Rees, of Ministry of Women, formerly the Movement for the Ordination of Women, was on the commission when it chose the Ven Christopher Herbert to go to St Albans.

She said: "With some of the current problems with appointing the right type of men as bishops, I do not think it will be long before a diocesan bishop somewhere identifies a woman priest he would like as a suffragan bishop. The sooner that happens the better." She agreed that the necessary legislation "would take years to go through".

## Shepherd pledges tighter discipline

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

GILLIAN SHEPHERD has promised a Government assault on the "young hooligans and ruffians" who disrupt many State schools, and appealed to parents to play their part.

The Education Secretary departed from a prepared speech to head teachers to announce an urgent review of the disciplinary measures available to schools. Her comments represented the first official acknowledgement of a widespread breakdown of authority in the classroom.

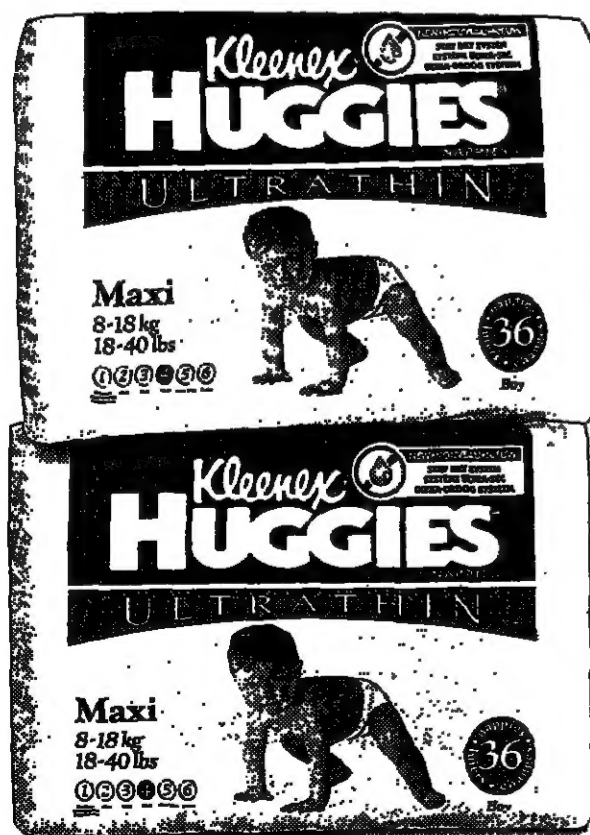
Mrs Shepherd delighted delegates at the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers, in Harrogate, by pinning the blame for a rising tide of pupil disorder on a minority of parents. The need for greater parental responsibility had been one of the main themes of the conference.

Schools were being left to pick up the pieces after the breakdown of family networks and community fragmentation, Mrs Shepherd said. Increasingly, teachers were having to deal with "unruly, disruptive and in some cases violent behaviour". She said: "We have got to deal with young hooligans and ruffians who disrupt school classes, and the parents must, if they are not doing so, be prepared to take part of the responsibility. We cannot have a situation where parents believe their responsibility ceases when they deliver a child to school."

David Hart, the NAHT's General Secretary, welcomed Mrs Shepherd's commitment. But parents' representatives reacted angrily, warning teachers that they were endangering the alliance established over this year's cuts in school budgets. Margaret Morrissey, the spokesman for the National Confederation of parent teacher associations, said parents accepted full responsibility for their children outside school.

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## Binmen clean up in economics test

By George Sivel

FOUR London dustmen have beaten finance ministers, chairmen of multinationals, and Oxford students in a competition to find the most reliable economic forecasters.

They were chosen by staff at *The Economist* magazine in December 1984 to make ten-year forecasts of a number of key economic statistics. After filling in their answers to the survey, at the tradesmen's entrance to homes of the magazine's staff, they continued on their rounds, plainly not realising the possibilities of painful employment at international management consultancies or the OECD.

On the highly volatile oil market the dustmen excelled. Expert analysts have buried career prospects time and time again by failure to second-guess the bizarre influences on oil prices. In 1984 few could have foreseen that the oil price would plunge

from \$29 a barrel to the present \$17, via a \$40 hiccup in the Gulf War. The dustmen came closest.

Maybe the advent of foreign holidays increases understanding of the foreign exchanges at the street level but the dustmen left the competition trailing, coming closest to the rise in the pound against the American dollar from \$1.20 in 1984 to \$1.60 at present. Most students, finance ministers and company chairmen were simply too gloomy.

Forecasting economic growth has always been a graveyard for economists. But when it came to predicting the year that fast-growing Singapore would overtake Australia in terms of economic output per head of population two dustmen shared the honours with two company chairmen. Other experts predicted that Singapore would never overtake Australia: it sailed past during 1993.

The survey also provides an insight into professional

failings. The four finance ministers believed inflation would continue to be strong and three of them forecast British inflation rates of more than 7 per cent. The outcome over the ten years was an average of 4.4 per cent. Clearly the former generation of finance ministers reckoned without the resolve of their successors.

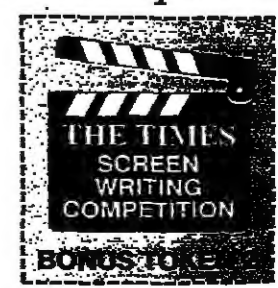
The *Economist* compiled a league table based on the predictions. The dustmen

came joint top with company chairmen. The students came next beating into bottom place the finance ministers.

The *Economist* ruefully concludes that contents of dustbins could well become a useful economic indicator.

Unfortunately for government ministers grappling with economic problems the four binmen are out on their rounds and future generations of economists will be denied their street credibility.

## Hollywood scriptwriter Competition



50p OFF



# Judge obliged to free joyrider, 13, who killed friends

BY STEWART TENDLER

A BOY of 13 who killed his two best friends in a car crash walked free from court yesterday after the judge complained that he lacked the powers to imprison him.

Aaron Jones is believed to be the youngest person to be charged with causing death by dangerous driving. Yesterday he stood in Nottingham Crown Court with the aid of a walking stick as he admitted causing the deaths of Steven Seagrave, 14, and Gem Akdemir, 15, when their Ford Escort ploughed into another vehicle as they sped through the centre of Nottingham during rush-hour last November.

Judge Hopkin sentenced Jones, of Nottingham, to a two-year supervision order and a five-year driving ban. He said: "Those who read about this case, and the public in general, will probably be amazed to see that you walk out of this court with nothing worse than a supervision order."

He added that he could not sentence Jones more severely because of the constraints of the Children and Young Persons Act and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. He intended to bring the case to the attention of the Home Secretary to see whether the law could be changed.

"It is quite clear defendants seem to get younger," the

judge said. He ruled that Jones, who has a string of offences including car theft, criminal damage, assault, threatening behaviour and robbery, could be named in press reports. "He has committed a very serious offence, and the public should know," he said.

John Burgess, for the prosecution, said that the teenager and his friends, who were "car-crashers", had bought the Escort two days before the crash for £50. It was rusty, had two defective tyres and was fit only for scrap.

On the day of the crash, a policeman spotted the car because it was making excessive noise and had one of its windows taped up. He followed it as it headed towards the city centre, went through three red lights and was driven along a pavement for about 50 yards. Mr Burgess said that two pedestrians had to leap out the way. One needed treatment for shock.

The car weaved in and out of traffic before the officer noticed the car "twit" on a busy stretch of road. The driver seemed briefly to regain control, only for the car to veer into the path of an oncoming Volkswagen Golf pick-up truck. The car was estimated to have been travelling at 61mph in a 40mph zone.

Jones told police that his

friends had asked him to drive and that he did not stop because he knew he would be in trouble. He told officers: "The others just said, 'Go, go'."

Errol Ballentyne, representing Jones, said: "This wasn't a real police chase. This was a young lad in a defective car driving in heavy traffic, weaving in and out, trying to get away from police even though he knew he couldn't. His passengers were urging him to continue, and he did it. It was the stupidity of youth."

Last night the boy's mother, Patricia Jones, said that two weeks before the crash her son had been involved in another car accident but had "promised faithfully" not to get involved again. She said that her husband, Natelle, had warned the boy about the dangers of his behaviour. "If only he had listened... This is a big lesson. I just hope others learn from my son and what has happened."

She knew her son had been driving under age but she did not know how the boys had obtained the car. "There is too much of this going on and the police aren't dealing with it properly," she said.

Gem Akdemir's mother, Ziya, said last night: "What's done is done. Gem shouldn't even have been in the car anyway."



The Intercity 225, pulled by the Sir Henry Royce, near Peterborough yesterday on its way to breaking the record set in 1985 of 144mph

## 154mph dash sets new passenger train record

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE great and the good of the anorak establishment descended on Peterborough yesterday to witness transport history in the making as British Rail set a new British passenger speed record.

Led by the train-spotter-in-chief, Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary and local MP, hundreds of dignitaries, railway executives and transport journalists piled on to locomotive 91031 Sir Henry Royce at Newcastle, Darlington and York for the 190-mile journey down the East Coast main line. Yesterday's targets were the 144mph record set in 1985 by an

InterCity 125 and the 150mph barrier, both of which were comfortably reached.

Yesterday's 154mph dash will scarcely have impressed the French, who hold the current world train speed record of 322mph, nor the Japanese, whose high-speed trains were easily exceeding 200mph in the 1980s. But that did not prevent British Rail laying on the back of the fiz and fancy nibbles.

As driver Wally Hobson eased the 6,300hp locomotive towards the record, passengers were advised to return to their seats to comply with special safety regulations. In



The Mallard locomotive reached 126mph in 1938

fact, the ride could hardly have been smoother. Scarcely a ripple disturbed the half-drunk glasses of fiz when the breathless in-cab comments

for announced over the PA system that the train had reached 145mph and was still accelerating. A second stretch of fast, straight track between

Grantham and Peterborough allowed the new record to be pushed to 154mph, an achievement greeted by Dr Mawhinney as evidence of Britain's technological superiority.

More sceptical observers pointed out that the new record was set on the same stretch of Victorian track at Stoke Bank as that used by the Mallard, which set the steam locomotive record of 126mph in 1938. British train technology has clearly not progressed at a pace. Yesterday's run represented an advance of just under half a mile per hour a year.

Leading article, page 19

## Policeman cleared of suffocating immigrant

BY RICHARD DUCE

ONE of the three police officers accused of killing Joy Gardner, a Jamaican illegal immigrant, was cleared of manslaughter yesterday after the directions of an Old Bailey judge.

Mr Justice Mummery directed the jury to acquit Detective Constable John Burrell, 43, saying there was no evidence that he had taken part in gagging Mrs Gardner, 40, with adhesive tape.

It is alleged that the gagging of Mrs Gardner, of Hoxton, north London, led to her suffocation during an attempt to deport her in July 1993. Detective Sergeant Linda Barnes, 41, and Detective Constable Colin Whitty, 48, still face a charge of manslaughter.

After a morning of legal argument in the absence of the jury, the judge called it in to court to say: "I have come to the conclusion after referring to the evidence in great detail that there is no evidence John Burrell played any active part in administering the gag. Please accept from me that is the position."

He told the jury that on examination the prosecution evidence "does not show in a way that is clear or satisfactory that he was holding Joy Gardner at the material time."

Mrs Gardner died in hospital two days after she was gagged with 13 ft of adhesive tape during a violent struggle with officers from Scotland Yard's alien deportation squad.

The trial continues.

## Girl saw rapist's face as he took off his balaclava

BY KATE ALDERSON

ONE of the two 12-year-old girls who were raped at knifepoint while returning from a picnic has been helping detectives build up a picture of the rapist, a man in his late 20s or early 30s, who was wearing a balaclava.

Manchester Police yesterday issued a violent and sexual assault warning for a man described as white and aged between 16 and 35, with a chubby face and light hair. Police disclosed yesterday that another two 12-year-old girls were threatened five months ago by a young man wearing a knife, less than a mile from this week's attack. An officer said it was possible that the incidents were linked.

The friends were wheeling their bicycles home from an afternoon picnic in a country park, known as the Strinesdale reservoir in the Waterhead area of Oldham, on Wednesday, when they were at-

tacked. The rapist threatened to kill them. They were forced to remove their clothes, blindfolded, tied to a tree and raped in what police said was a "brutal" attack.

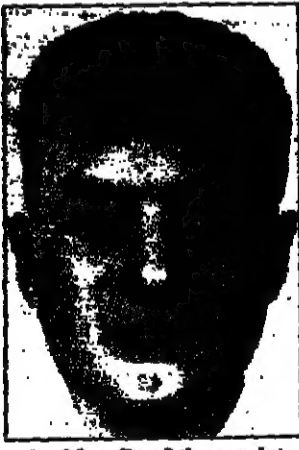
WPC Alison Donoghue, one of the police officers who interviewed the girls in the Sexual Assault Referral Centre in St Mary's Hospital, told a press conference yesterday that the girls had also been physically beaten by the rapist and were feeling distressed and sick.

WPC Donoghue, who has worked with child victims of sex crimes for a number of years, said the families of the two girls were "in total shock" and finding it hard to talk about what had happened. WPC Donoghue said that she and her colleague had built up a rapport with the girls.

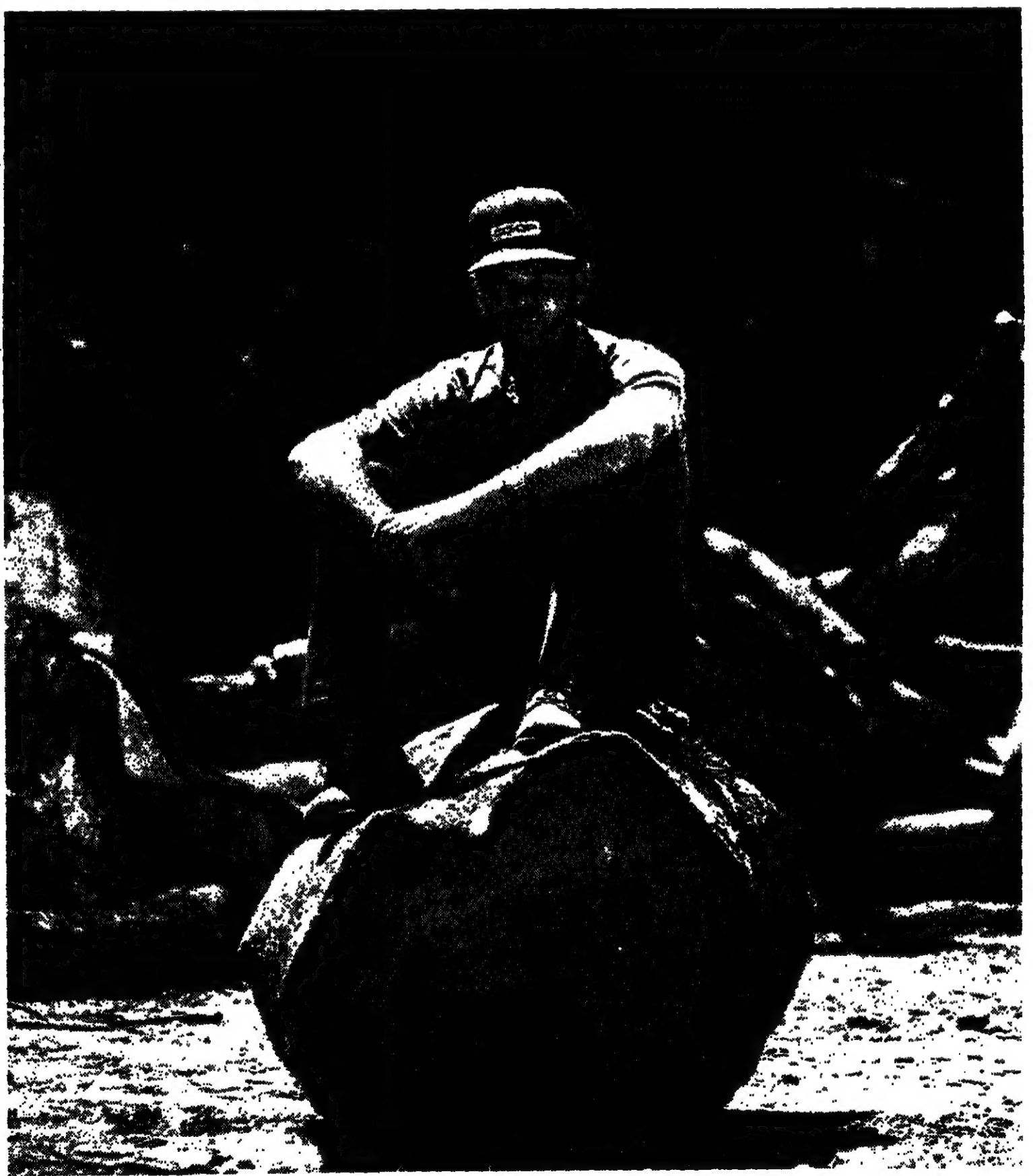
Detective Inspector Dennis Barnes praised the bravery of the girls in giving a detailed description of their attacker.

Detectives were yesterday interviewing a youth in connection with the rapes but said they had a number of other leads. There had been a tremendous public response to an appeal for information, Mr Barnes said.

Earlier, Detective Chief Inspector Geoff Isaacs, who is leading the inquiry, said the attacker was probably a local man and "had scaly hands which could indicate that he was suffering from eczema. He also had a scar at the side of his right eye." He had blue-green eyes, short brown hair and badly-bitten fingernails.



A video-fit of the rapist



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Government and profession concerned as hospitals look increasingly to abroad for staff

## Puzzled BMA sets out to trace Britain's vanishing doctors

BY CATHERINE MILTON  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Government and doctors' leaders are trying to find out why an increasing number of hospital doctors have to be imported from abroad.

The British Medical Association, which said this week that a growing shortage of British-trained doctors was forcing hospitals to recruit from overseas, plans to monitor the progress of 500 medical graduates to find out where they leave the profession.

The Department of Health acknowledges there are shortages of doctors in certain medical specialisms and says it expects to know the number of doctors deciding not to continue their medical careers later this year.

According to the BMA, restrictions on the number of

Doctors and nurses at The Royal London Hospital Trust, which runs St Bartholomew's and the Royal London at Whitechapel, east London, may be dismissed if they make public concerns about bed or ward closures, or waiting lists. The gag is in a document to be discussed by the trust board. Managers have already issued an edict forbidding consultants from speaking out.

students allowed to read medicine and reductions in junior doctors' working hours are contributing to the shortage.

Stella Lowry, head of the association's international department, said: "A lot of doctors are simply disappearing. We don't know if that is permanent. Perhaps a lot of them are taking temporary

career breaks." She dismisses Health Department claims that a 10,000 increase in doctors since 1983 means there is no overall shortfall. She said: "Vacant posts are much more revealing than actual numbers of doctors. There is no medical unemployment in Britain and hospitals are increasingly having to fill vacant posts with doctors from overseas. These vacancies are not just in problem specialisms. There is an overall shortfall. Our study will eventually give more information."

The General Medical Council recently reported a 27 per cent increase in the number of doctors from neighbouring European countries registered to practice — although not necessarily practicing — in Britain between 1993 and 1994.

Britain and Ireland are the only European countries with few unemployed doctors, partly because the number of



Six of the doctors whose pregnancies have caused a hiatus in practices in the Tynedale district of Northumberland

medical students is tightly controlled. Currently, 4,470 can be admitted each year in Britain although there is a big demand for places.

Dr Lowry said: "In the past the limits have stood us in good stead and kept medical unemployment low or non-existent. We have been very careful to make sure that the

student intake matches our national requirements. Recently, however, the balance seems to have shifted."

A spokesman for the Health Department said the Government had recently increased the numbers of places for medical students by 240 and had funded a thousand more posts, mainly for consultants,

to cover the reduction in junior doctors' hours.

Seven doctors from Tynedale, Northumberland, who are expecting babies this summer, have caused a small-scale health care crisis among local GPs.

The seven, who realised the scale of the baby boom only at a meeting for doctors, had to

launch a major search to find stand-ins to work at half the 12 general practices.

Louise Jordan, 33, from Corbridge Health Centre, said: "We have found them all now. It was quite a struggle though. It was a tremendous headache to find locums to cover six practices at almost the same time."

A press  
ad, as  
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To screen a 30 second commercial in front of the mass audience (25 million adults) just once - and once only - will cost the advertiser around £220,000 (£340,000 when you include production).

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If you want to read it again,

or check a figure we've quoted, this page will still be here an hour, a day, or a week later.

If you're seriously interested in what we've said, you might cut the page out and keep it for reference.

By contrast, every time the poor TV advertiser wants access to another 30 seconds of your attention, he has no alternative but to spend a further £220,000.

Not that a television commercial could convey a fraction of what we have discussed.

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The moral of the story:  
To make the most of your advertising investment, do it in newspapers.

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PRESS

## 'In Germany it is hard to find a job. Here it is easy'

BY CATHERINE MILTON

URSULA ECKER, a young German who found herself unable to get work at home, decided to seek a job in Britain. She is a junior surgeon at the James Paget Hospital in Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, where of 70 junior doctors, 17 are German, three Dutch, two Spanish and one Icelandic. Of 56 consultants one is from Spain, one from Germany, another is from France and several are from further afield.

"In Germany it is very difficult to find a job but in England it is very easy because they are short of junior doctors," said Dr Ecker, 29. She is grateful, she says, for the practical experience from her first real job after seven years' training and enjoys the chance to experience another country's medical system and culture.

The hospital employs 157 doctors of whom 66 trained in British medical schools. The rest come from a variety of countries including Africa, India and the Middle East.

Language was a problem at first, Dr Ecker, who is working in the hospital's vascular surgery department, admits she struggled with the accent. She said: "I learnt English at school but in real life people

don't speak like that. A lot of my patients will say 'wife' instead of 'wife'. Sometimes you know the words but you don't recognise them because people don't speak clearly. But that was only a problem for a few weeks."

Patients have been friendly, she says. Nobody has complained about her nationality. Dr Ecker says the job, which she has had since February, is the first time she has had clinical responsibilities for patients. She said: "I did my practical year in Germany as a medical student. I worked with patients but only as a student, without any responsibility. I heard that you get a lot of practical experience in Britain and that the training for junior doctors is very good."

She is enjoying her stint, which comes to an end in July, and finds the atmosphere at the James Paget cosmopolitan. She said: "There are a lot of foreign doctors, Germans, Indians, Pakistanis and several from African countries."

A spokeswoman for James Paget said: "We have been appointing junior doctors from the Continent since 1989 but the numbers have increased in the past three years. There just aren't enough British graduates to go around."

**I**n our free market, advertisers need to draw attention to the virtues and benefits of their merchandise.

How else can we find out about new products that will improve our lifestyle, our health, our appearance, or our environment?

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The really expensive ones go much higher. (Take a deep breath.)

Within the last year there have been TV commercials - naming no names - which cost £1.8 million, £1.2 million and £800,000.

It's baffling how any 60 seconds of celluloid can cost such vast sums when the BBC can make a whole hour of TV drama for a relatively meagre £400,000.

But the costs of television don't stop there. Once you've made the commercial, you still have to air it, and air time is costly.

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Defence says Kevin was left in dark

# Robert Maxwell 'thought he was behaving legally'

By JON ASHWORTH AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

ROBERT MAXWELL dominated his vast business empire, leaving his sons and other executives to rubber-stamp decisions that he alone had made, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

His death at sea in November 1991 had a "catastrophic" effect on the companies, triggering their collapse, according to Alan Jones, QC, for Kevin Maxwell. He said: "It wasn't simply his death which caused the problems but the perception that the death was suicide by a man who knew the game was up."

"We don't accept Robert Maxwell killed himself, but that perception led to a disastrous plunge of the Maxwell Communication Corporation [MCC] share price, which made the value of the securities held by the banks fall."

Kevin Maxwell, 36, former chief executive of MCC, denies conspiring with his father to defraud Maxwell pensioners out of more than £100 million in shares in Schenck Corporation, an Israeli computer imaging firm.

In a second count he and his brother Ian, 38, and two former executives, deny a similar fraud involving shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, another Israeli company, involving £22 million.

The late publishing tycoon's power was established in 1962 when the board of MCC approved a minute allowing him to sign his own cheques and giving him unilateral authority over company decisions. These included share deals which he would later present as *faits accomplis* and expect his subordinates to rubber-stamp.

Crucially, Mr Jones alleged, he amended a document before showing it to Kevin, leaving him in the dark about the true ownership of pension-fund assets. It led his youngest son to believe that he had the authority to use Schenck shares belonging to Bishopsgate Investment Management (BIM), which managed funds for Maxwell pensioners, as security against loans to the Robert Maxwell Group.

The portrait of Robert Maxwell as a colourful autocrat was drawn by Mr Jones on the third day of the trial. He said: "The dominance and controlling force of Robert Maxwell is not an assertion I think any party in this case will challenge."

"Kevin Maxwell is here charged with conspiracy with someone who is not here to defend himself, his father Robert Maxwell, and no one else. The proof of Robert Maxwell's dishonesty is one step the prosecution have to take to prove Kevin Maxwell's dishonesty."

"Part of our function in this case is to be asking ourselves the question: what would Robert Maxwell's defence be if he was here? It could be that Robert Maxwell was guilty of the dishonesty the prosecution alleged, but not his son. That

is a real possibility but that is not our defence.

"We shall be suggesting in the course of this trial that Robert Maxwell was not dishonest in relation to the transactions which are the subject of count one. He clearly considered that he was legally entitled to transfer the Schenck shares and indeed the Teva shares."

Kevin had no reason to question his father's practices, Mr Jones said. "It will be our case that what he was told by his father conformed precisely with practices which had prevailed in the Maxwell group for many years."

The court heard of one instance in which Robert Maxwell unilaterally bought shares in Société Générale for £54 million for BIM and later presented a £6 million profit as a *fait accompli*. The first BIM directors knew of the deal was when the contract note arrived.

Counsel said that the practice of using funds, even pension funds, for the financial benefit of the group as a whole was regarded by a large number of people as "acceptable and normal".

Tributes paid to Robert Maxwell after his body had been recovered from the Atlantic indicated the high regard in which he was held, counsel said. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Prime Minister, said that he was "a very big man", while Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said his death had robbed Britain of "a most colourful and energetic figure". This showed the perception people held of him, said Mr Jones, and one his son was entitled to share.

While Kevin bore some responsibility for the collapse of the group, others including the auditors Coopers & Lybrand, solicitors and regulators shared the blame. Mr Jones said that Kevin was never warned by solicitors or auditors that there might be a conflict of interest in his role as a director of more than 40 Maxwell companies, including BIM.

Mr Jones said he had profited from his actions. "This is not a case where it's alleged against him that he made any gain from the alleged frauds. There is no pot of gold."

After attending his father's funeral in Jerusalem on November 10, 1991, Kevin believed that there was a realistic prospect of an outside investor injecting £400 million into the group. But the decision by banks, including National Westminster, to call in their loans frustrated his plans to keep the empire afloat.

Kevin did not believe that there was any risk of insolvency because the value of assets greatly exceeded liabilities. He believed that there could be an orderly disposal of group assets so that it could concentrate on its newspaper interests.

Earlier, Alan Suckling, QC,

for the prosecution, ended an eight-hour opening address to the jury when he alleged that the pension funds were left nursing a £296 million shortfall after Robert Maxwell's death.

Trevor Cook, administrator of the pension schemes, made desperate attempts to trace the whereabouts of the Schenck and Teva share certificates, "but alas, he was too late", Mr Suckling said.

At that moment, unknown to Mr Cook, Kevin was allegedly trying to raise a total of \$24 million from two Israeli banks using the shares — which had already been pledged to NatWest and the US investment bank Lehman Brothers — as collateral.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

## Soldier returns trophy of war to Berlin

By LUCY BERRINGTON

A ROYAL ornament plucked by a British soldier from the rubble of wartime Berlin has been returned to the city after standing on his mantelpiece for 50 years.

The miniature Chinese vase, once owned by George I, was taken by Sergeant Ken Harrison, 19, who marched with the 1st Battalion Grenadiers into the city after it was taken by the Russians.

Sgt Harrison was assigned to the Charlottenburg Palace, the seat of the Hanoverian dynasty, which had become a temporary armory for surrendered Nazi weapons. Mr Harrison, 69, said yesterday: "The Palace was also a museum and the Russians had removed all the ancient swords and other exhibits and dumped them in the yard to be destroyed."

The sergeant was asked to supervise the clearing of a large room damaged by bombing to provide sleeping quarters for soldiers. In the rubble he spotted a pair of 17th-century Chinese vases. "They were blue and white, almost like Wedgwood, and just 2 in tall. I thought they were lovely and vowed the Russians weren't going to destroy them."

He slipped the vases in his pocket and later packed them



The Berlin museum's director with the returned Chinese vase yesterday



Marrison: conscience

clared heir to the English throne.

The museum said: "Many of the Palace treasures were destroyed by bombs and Russians. The soldier took the vase in remembrance of the end of the war. Of 3,000 porcelain pieces only 150 survived. We believe a lot may be in Russian hands and we can only hope they show the same honesty."

Mr Harrison said: "The trip brought back a lot of memories, especially when I stood at the Brandenburg Gate. But most of all I am happy that the vase is back where it belongs. I'm just sorry I dropped the other one."

in his kit bag. "I never intended to keep them. I just thought they were too lovely to be destroyed," Mr Harrison, from Scarborough, North Yorkshire, said. After the war he joined the railways as a footplate man. One vase was smashed several years ago but the other continued to decorate his mantelpiece and to prey on

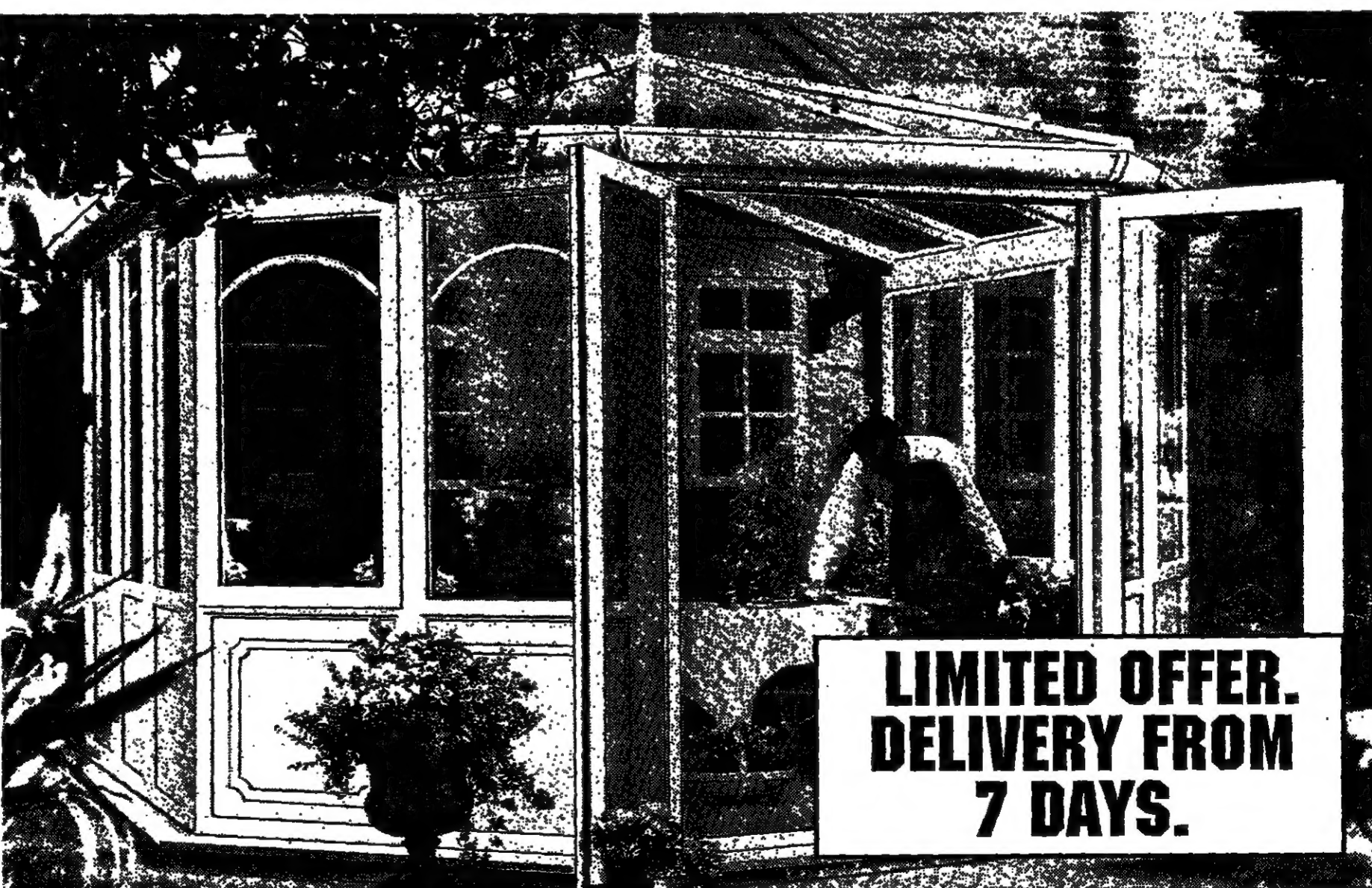
his conscience. He took advantage of a day trip to Berlin to return it. "I was just looking after it."

But the visit was on a Monday, when the palace was closed. Mr Harrison handed the vase to a tour representative, who presented it to the palace at a special ceremony three days later. The museum said yesterday:

"The vase is only small but is valuable both in monetary and historical terms. We are delighted to be able to put it back on display."

The palace was built in 1695 for Sophie Charlotte of Hanover, the first Prussian queen, and her brother George, a distant cousin of Queen Anne. In 1714, after Anne's death, he was de-

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## Reluctant judge clears footballer of assault on cabbie

BY RICHARD DUCE  
AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

DENNIS WISE, the Chelsea and England international footballer, won a grudging acquittal yesterday from a judge who quashed his convictions for attacking a taxi driver and damaging his cab.

Wise, 28, walked free from Southwark Crown Court, QC, sitting with two magistrates, told him their decision was made "with no enthusiasm". He said that Wise, on his own admission, had behaved disgracefully during an angry altercation with the taxi driver, Gerald Graham, 65, outside a west London nightclub last October.

However, Judge Butler said the evidence of Mr Graham about the alleged assault could not be relied upon "beyond reasonable doubt". Wise, the Chelsea captain, had appealed against his convictions in February by Horseferry Road magistrates, who imposed a three-month



Wise: sentence quashed

jail sentence for assault and criminal damage.

Judge Butler said Wise, of East Acton, west London, accepted that he smashed the glass partition of Mr Graham's taxi with his fists and that he then held the driver by the neck after his girlfriend, Geraldine Lennon, was struck by the taxi's open door. However, according to Mr Graham, Wise kicked the side

of the car and hammered on the driver's window. "At this stage, said Mr Graham, Mr Wise kicked the glass partition when sitting on the edge of the back seat of the taxi and then struck him a number of times with his fist on the back of the head," said the judge.

The evidence of passing police officers who restrained Wise tended to support "to a limited extent" the footballer's version. The judge said it had to be conceded that Wise's appeal should be allowed unless it was decided Mr Graham's evidence was "in all material respects an accurate and truthful account".

"That is a most important concern... looking at the totality of the evidence we cannot be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the evidence of what took place, given by Mr Graham, is in all material respects an accurate account of the events. 'This appeal must therefore succeed but that is a conclusion we reach with no enthusiasm.' He made no order for costs.



The desecrated Marlow Road Jewish cemetery, east London. A Jewish cemetery in Hull was also attacked

## Headstones smashed in Jewish cemeteries

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

ANTI-SEMITIC gangs have broken into two Jewish cemeteries and smashed more than 90 headstones in recent days, the Jewish Chronicle reported yesterday.

The desecrations in east London and Hammerside are the most serious incidents of their kind for more than a year. Police are appealing for witnesses. The Marlow Road cemetery in East Ham, owned by the United Synagogue, the country's main Orthodox body, had 50 marble and granite headstones destroyed last week. The perpetrators are thought to have used pickaxes and sledgehammers.

Last year, Nazi slogans and anti-Semitic obscenities were spray-painted on three war graves in the cemetery.

The incident in Hull, where 45 headstones in the Jewish community cemetery were knocked over and broken, was said to be the worst ever of its kind in the area.

## Oxford students abandon strike over rent rises

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

STUDENTS at Pembroke College, Oxford, yesterday abandoned their rent strike against higher charges which they claimed would limit entry to the affluent.

Students voted to call off the six-week protest, which was pitched one of the university's poorest colleges into a financial crisis, in exchange for a greater involvement in Pembroke's management. Some 250 undergraduates backed down hours before the college's solicitors were expected to send them court summonses for the sums overdue.

During a series of acrimonious clashes with college authorities, the students insisted that further increases on top of this year's 21 per cent rise — to about £1,200 — would put Pembroke beyond the reach of working-class applicants.

Dr Robert Stevens, Pembroke's Master, argued that the college could no longer afford to subsidise accommodation costs when most of the students were middle and upper-middle class. He criticised the "welfare mentality" of some and urged the junior college room to sell a valuable painting by Francis Bacon to help to subsidise future rents for poorer students.

Dr Stevens welcomed the

decision to call off the strike. He said the students had accepted that the college's precarious financial position left little room for manoeuvre. "I am anxious to rebuild relations with the junior common room, which have traditionally been close," he said. "But we do have to undo some of the damage which this episode has done."

Dr Stevens said there was evidence that applications from state-school pupils had already dropped in the wake of the dispute. "We are really going to try to improve the social mix at Pembroke, which we accept in the past has not been good."

The college had set aside more than £20,000 next year in bursaries for applicants from poorer families and for students facing hardship. This was one of the most generous funds in Oxford, he said.

Brian Schofield, president of the junior common room, said that the students could "hold their heads high". He added that the student association had had Bacon's portrait, *Man in a Chair*, revalued during the dispute and it was put at about £600,000. The debate about whether it should be sold would continue.

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Bank develops safe online credit card system to exploit new electronic marketplace

## Barclays opens first mall on the Internet

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE first shopping centre on the Internet, the worldwide computer communications network, has been launched by Barclays Bank. Goods available so far include wines from Sainsbury's, books from Blackwell's and gadgets from Innovations.

The bank, which calls its electronic shopping precinct BarclaySquare, claims to have solved the problems that have limited commercial use of the network.

The potential is huge, with a million British users already online and a growth rate of 10 per cent a month. The American analysts Kilen and Associates predict that money transactions through the Internet, which has 30 million users, will expand to \$600 billion (£380 billion) a year by 1999.

At present, transactions are trivial. The Internet emerged from the academic world and has been used for exchanging information rather than making money. But a more important limitation has been security. A message sent through the net can pass through many computers. Hackers find it easy to eavesdrop on e-mail (electronic mail) and sending confidential information such as credit card numbers could lead to widespread fraud. Barclays believes it has solved the problem with the help of a data encryption, or coding, system designed by the American company Netscape and the Jersey-based Interactive Telephony.

Steve Collins, head of technology development for Barclays' Emerging Markets

Unit, admits the system is not perfect. "This is the first stage, and we have a system we think is fine for transmitting credit card numbers on the Internet. But we wouldn't use it for direct money transfers — for that we'll need a more sophisticated system. But if we had waited for the perfect solution, we wouldn't have been able to get started at all."

When a BarclaySquare user establishes contact, an encryption signal is passed. When an order is placed by sending a credit card number down the line, the number is individually coded and can be deciphered only at the other end. Money transfers between the credit card company and the shop are conventional, as if the shopper had used his card at a normal branch.

Barclays believes the system will defeat hackers. Mr Collins said it would take 64 years, using the world's most powerful computer, to break the codes. Expecting more would be unreasonable, as credit card users already buy goods by dictating their numbers over the telephone, an insecure arrangement.

The BarclaySquare system is only a halfway house to what has been called e-money, in which people will not only identify goods but also pay for them directly on the Internet. Mr Collins said that this would be likely to involve hardware rather than software encryption.

The ultimate, he said, would be a smart card or smart floppy disk, unique to the individual, which would be loaded with electronic money. This money could be spent over the Internet, the transfers being protected by encryption on the card or the disk, recognisable only to the user's bank. Such a system would bypass the credit card companies and would be useful for purchases too small to justify the cost of using a credit card.

Other experts in the field believe that software encryption would suffice and experimental systems are under trial. One of them, Digicash, was designed by David Chaum, a former professor of computing at Stanford University. Five thousand volunteers are testing the system, which involves creating "electronic banknotes" which can be spent with 50 companies.



Welcome to the mall: only a few stores are open in BarclaySquare at present, but more electronic shops will be coming online soon

## Take your mouse for a solitary stroll down the high street of the future

By Joe Joseph

IF self-service is your bag, your dream shop has arrived. You can't get more self-service than shopping via a computer terminal at home.

The drawbacks? Well, there is no human contact, no sweaty hustle and bustle, no chit-chat, no browsing, no flirting over the fresh pasta, no stopping for an espresso or an ice cream. And, of course, shoplifters will find life trickier.

The advantages? No human contact, no hustle and bustle, no chit-chat, no wayward shopping trolleys rescuing your shinbones, no muzak and no more having to read those fantastical signs at the Sainsbury's checkout that urge you to ask the cashier if you require help packing your groceries.

At the moment BarclaySquare is less of a shopping mall, more of a malleite. There are very few shops and very few items in those shops. But let's shop, credit cards in hand, and in the knowledge that car boot size will not cramp our purchasing style.

First stop Sainsbury's, the only supermarket so far on stream. Click, click, with your mouse and there's the list of wines — no food as yet, rocket science, but without the fresh rocket. Providing you have an IQ higher than room temperature, the human

brain is still rather smarter than a computer, and you could take in vastly more information about the store's wine selection by scrolling up the aisle than you can mousing your way through wine lists. But could you do it wearing only your tartan boxer shorts?

So into our wire basket in cyberspace goes a case of Giant's Creek Chardonnay at £8.45 a bottle. Click. Move the mouse towards "Go to checkout": click. We didn't even have to wait for a supervisor to come and apologise that, terribly sorry, but, um, there's nobody available to help you pack just at the moment.

At Innovations, we click through the directory and make an impulse purchase of "Stowaway" — a portable safe that doubles as a coathanger. When in use its main purpose is concealed by the garment. But even if a thief discovers Stowaway, he'll find it securely locked on to the wardrobe rail. Click, £24.95. We dither over the "emergency safety hammer" at only £12.95, but unable to think of any crisis in our life when we have thought "Crikey! If only I had an emergency safety hammer," we pass.

At Blackwell's Bookshops we not only get steered to the book of the month — *Fezzan* by Iain M. Banks — we also get a history of



Just looking: Joseph enters the brave new mall

Blackwell's since its origins in Broad Street, Oxford, in 1879, and a list of senior management. Of course, there are no "author readings" on the Internet, which is probably just as well for those who would rather not have Martin Amis berating them in their drawing room — at least not without an emergency safety hammer handy. Over at

Argos, they go for the cheeky approach: "Welcome to Argos Net Direct. We trust you had a pleasant journey to our cyberstore and parking was easy." Laught? I nearly clicked my mouse off. Argos offers just 16 items, ranging from keep-fit and sports equipment to sofas and computers. Missing the exercise we would have got ambulating to the shops

— or at least ambuling ten yards to the car — we settle for the "York 2001 Home Fitness Centre with Pec Mate" for £298, which, once delivered, we can energetically unpack and then leave to gather dust in the dining room.

For those computer freaks who don't find computer shopping sufficiently interactive, Toys 'R' Us has a selection of CD-Rom and computer games available at the click of a mouse. Escape from the whole world of shopping is provided by Eurostar, which will sell you a ticket to Paris or Brussels. For students, Campus travel also has a shop window in cyberspace.

Now type in your credit card number, pay up and log off. So far that's as far as it goes on the virtual high street, although Barclays promises more shops by September. They also promise cyber-novelties such as Barclaycard commercials with Rowan Atkinson in the middle of the shopping mall and fashion shows in boutiques, though cyber-Peeping Toms will be electronically barred from peeking into the virtual changing rooms.

Sir Henry 'Chips' Channon once moaned in his diaries that, "It is very difficult to spend less than £200 a morning when one goes shopping." Hell, Henry, we've already spent five times that and we haven't even shaved yet.

## Prince draws the crowds at 'secret' hideaway

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN DUBLIN

ALL the clues were there. Military exercises in the area, a minor road resurfaced for no good reason. Ireland is a small country and does not keep secrets well.

So it was no great surprise that when the Prince of Wales's helicopter landed at Castlebar, Co Mayo, a crowd of at least 100 locals were waiting to greet him, hopeful of a handshake.

After 24 very public hours conducting the first official royal visit to Dublin for 84 years, the Prince of Wales had left for 36 hours of strictly private relaxation "somewhere in the Irish countryside". Inquiries as to his destination were met with blank looks.

When the helicopter landed and the Prince stepped out and sped off, the secret was out, broadcast on Irish television: his hideaway was Delphi Fishing Lodge, tucked into the mountainous southwest of Mayo. On the banks of the River Erriff, its ten salmon beats are regarded as among the finest in Europe. No, his staff insisted, he had not brought his rods.

The location is a little over an hour's drive from Mullaghmore, Co Sligo, where Earl Mountbatten and three others were murdered by terrorists in 1979. At the lodge to meet the Prince were Lord and Lady Brabourne, the earl's daughter and son-in-law, who were among three who survived the bomb in a fishing boat. Lord Brabourne, 70, suffered severe leg injuries and his wife spent several days on a life-support machine. The other survivor was their son, Timothy.

Both the Prince's party and Irish government officials were yesterday basking in the success of a visit whose only security hitch was the throwing of three eggs. It has generated an unexpected degree of warmth from Irish politicians and public.

Such was the enthusiasm for the Prince that there was widespread speculation yesterday that a visit by the Queen could not be far behind. Senator Maurice Manning, leader of the Upper House of the Irish parliament, said that articles two and three of the 1937 constitution, which lay claim to Northern Ireland and which the current peace process may abolish, were not an impediment to a full-scale royal visit.

"If she wants to come, there is no problem as far as the constitution is concerned," he said.

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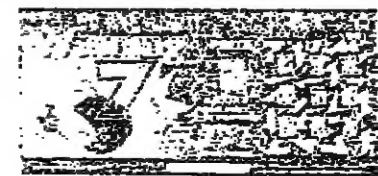
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 3 1995

# Self-doubt 'threatens British and US society'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE British and American "preoccupation with the self" could lead to the disintegration of social order and democratic values, the former US Ambassador in London warned last night.

Raymond Seitz lamented the breakdown of families and deterioration of communities. He said: "The two Atlantic allies who did so much to preserve the democratic ideal are now notably two nations discontented with their inadequacies." Both countries had become "self-absorbed, distracted and discontented."

He described a "melancholy" in British life and said that recovery from the recession seemed more statistical than real. The country was beset by a host of questions that went to the heart of its being. These included "the role and appropriateness of the monarchy", the spiritual and temporal nature of the Church of England and the probability of public service.

In America too, the political mood was "sullen and cantankerous" and the American Dream had become the "American Disillusionment". Mr Seitz, who retired in April as ambassador to the Court of St James, was speaking at the 18th annual lecture at St George's House, a residential conference centre at

Windsor Castle. "In the Western world, our two nations are both leaders in such unenviable categories as disparity of income, incidence of divorce, rate of illegitimacy, decline of education, abuse of drugs. This is not democracy at its most handsome."

A Harvard-born Anglophile widely regarded as the most popular ambassador in the history of relations between the two countries, Mr Seitz warned that "sometimes in a democracy, the elastic snaps". Self-determination was particularly dangerous in Europe, where ethnic and political boundaries rarely coincided, he said.

Balancing his criticisms equally between Britain and America, Mr Seitz said: "If a democracy becomes only a matter of asserting rights — merely an excuse for licence — then society can rapidly become a melée of self-indulgence."

Although politicians and church leaders have issued repeated warnings in a similar vein, Mr Seitz's address is significant because, with 20 years of senior diplomatic service in London and Washington, he is well qualified to talk on Anglo-American affairs. He believes the structures of the democratic governments of both countries, while historically successful, seem less responsive to the political mood than they once were. There was much about the conduct of democratic government that both countries could learn from each other.

Mr Seitz, now managing director of Lehmann Brothers European banking division, referred to the irony of how, just when democracy had attained a kind of universal legitimacy around the world, "it seems to have soured in the two nations most responsible for its modern development".

At Your Service, Weekend page 2



Seitz lamented decay



Dr George Carey with Patriarch Ilya II in London yesterday. The Patriarch will deliver a sermon at Canterbury Cathedral tomorrow

## Patriarch calls for morality in politics

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Patriarch of All Georgia and Archbishop of Mtskheta and Tbilisi paid a return trip to Britain yesterday after the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Georgia two years ago. Patriarch Ilya II and Dr George Carey took a boat trip from Lambeth Palace along the Thames to Hampton Court.

Patriarch Ilya, who also addressed the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House in London yesterday, is due to preach at Canterbury Cathedral tomorrow as part of his four-day visit. A translation of his sermon will be given to the congregation.

He told his audience at Chatham House that the Church should not be active in politics but should "keep the truth". Politics should be based on high morality, but spiritual leaders should not be members of political parties.

The Patriarch, who heads Georgia's Orthodox Church, raised issues of "mutual concern and co-operation", including the teaching of English in the spiritual academy in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia.

## Belief in merciful God is not just wishful thinking

By Fraser Watts

RELIGION, Freud alleged, is a matter of wish-fulfilment: people believe what they want to believe to make life bearable. It is a view that should not be dismissed lightly.

There are many contemporary Christians whose concept of God over-emphasises those aspects that they find congenial. Sometimes, a self-critical person believes in a judgmental God in a way that simply reinforces their own sense of guilt. Alternatively, a frightened person believes in a protective but undemanding God who simply brings reassurance. Others look for certainty in religion and rejoice when they find it, hardly minding exactly what the certainties are. "Your God is too small" is an accusation that can justly be levelled against many Christians.

This kind of analysis is salutary to

religious people. However, it would be an altogether different matter to go further and say that God is nothing but wish-fulfilment. Even Freud admitted that his theory of religion didn't necessarily mean that religion was an error. There is nothing inconsistent in acknowledging both that faith can be constrained by psychological needs and that there is a true God able to lead us towards a more balanced acquaintance with Him.

Did the early Church arise from wish-fulfilment? After the crucifixion, the disciples would have had an enormous need to believe that it was not the end of Jesus. People sometimes say the way in which the demoralised disciples of Good Friday turned into the confident preachers of Pentecost could only have been God's work. However, a

psychological explanation of Pentecost should not be dismissed on the ground that psychological processes simply aren't powerful enough to have brought about the transformation. It is, in any case, a mistake to pit God's action and human processes against each other, as though they were incompatible.

What I find most impressive about the birth of the Church is the willingness to embrace new and unfamiliar forms of Christianity. The farewell discourses record Jesus's promise that the Spirit would lead the disciples "into all truth". It took them in surprising directions: for example the notion of gentle Christianity would initially have astonished them. The story of the birth of the Church exemplifies an attractive combination of bedrock

faith and openness to change. The challenge for religious people is how to hold their faith with conviction, but in a way that will enable them to discover the fullness of the true God. It seems to be inherent in the human condition that none of us has a full and adequate understanding, either of God himself, or of the life to which He calls us. That does not do too much harm provided there is a possibility of moving towards an ever fuller understanding. However, once dogmatism sets in, we are trapped in our limited views, and the true God who might wish to lead us forward is shut out.

Also, the limited views which are a necessary staging point in one person's religious journey may not be part of another's. Indeed, one person's partial presentation of the

religious faith can put another off starting the journey. Sadly, there are many people who are open to the spiritual aspects of life, but who feel the Church is too dogmatic to be relevant. The Church's open-minded seeking for the truth of God is too often hidden from view.

How people pray often shows whether they are open to the true God or trapped in their own limited conception of him. At its best, is a time when we can be nudged towards a fuller grasp of the truth: at worst, it is a time when we reinforce our own limited religious outlook. Prayer calls for a kind of "playfulness", a willingness to look at events through God's eyes. Prayerfulness can be the space in which, in humility, we can be led by the Spirit "into all truth".

Fraser Watts is Starbridge Lecturer at Cambridge University, Fellow of Queens' College, and Chaplain of St Edward's Church.

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President takes to the prairie campaign trail

# Clinton plays cowboy in drive for western votes

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHEN President Clinton dons jeans and cowboy hat, mounts a horse called Phire Power, and rides across a Montana prairie with a posse of cameramen in pursuit, you know his campaign to regain the Oval Office is under way.

When a President has to hob-nob with locals in a greasy spoon called the Kit Kat café, eat calves' testicles at a picnic with wheat farmers, and chew antelope for dinner — in fact, do everything but lead a cattle drive — you also know he is in trouble.

Mr. Clinton returned to Washington yesterday from a two-day trip to Montana and Colorado designed less to "win the West", which he did in 1992, than to prevent it joining the South next year in a wholesale defection to the Republicans.

At a town hall meeting in Billings, Montana, the President denied he had "been trying to wage war on the West". He said Administration attempts to raise grazing fees on federal lands had been an error. He insisted that he had backed gun controls to make big cities safer and "would never knowingly do anything to undermine the ability of people to hunt or engage in recreational shooting". He claimed his views on logging had been misrepresented, and said that while agricultural subsidies would

have to be trimmed to reduce the federal deficit, he would staunchly resist the sort of draconian cuts the Republicans were proposing that would put family farms out of business.

Cold electoral mathematics inspired the trip. The White House has virtually written off the conservative South, which the Republicans swept in last November's congressional elections. That means he must carry the West, but it is a tall order. Mr Clinton was the first Democrat since Lyndon Johnson in 1964 to carry Rocky Mountain states such as Montana and Colorado, but they

have since turned against him. Nationally, his approval ratings have climbed above 50 per cent, but in these states they remain mired in the 30s and 40s. Montana has become a hotbed of conspiracy theorists, anti-government radicals and paramilitary groups.

In Billings, home of the sizeable Militia of Montana, Mr Clinton lashed out at those who were "encouraging people and explicitly telling them when it is OK for them to take the law into their own hands and be violent". He also took a swipe at Robert Dole, his most likely Republican challenger, for denouncing

liberal Hollywood and the "culture of violence" it promotes but remaining "stone-cold silent" about right-wing militias.

Publicly Mr Clinton maintains that it is far too early to begin campaigning, but in fact he now does scarcely anything without an eye on 1996. He appears to have warded off any challenge for the Democratic nomination, the first Democratic President to do so since Franklin Roosevelt. He has opened a campaign headquarters and picked a staff. Last month, he visited Iowa, site of the first caucus, and goes to New Hampshire, site of the first primary, a week tomorrow.

The most vivid example of how electoral politics is driving policy is the Administration's threat to impose 100 per cent tariffs on luxury Japanese cars. It could spark a trade war between the world's economic superpowers, and wreck the new World Trade Organisation, but it is hugely popular in the key states of Michigan, Missouri and Ohio, where most American cars are made.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, recently told Mr Clinton at a Washington dinner that he had a one-in-three chance of re-election. Mr Clinton and his advisers are not that pessimistic, but acknowledge they have a tough fight.



President Clinton on Phire Power at Billings, Montana



Wheelchair-bound Robert Hoskins, who was shot and wounded by guards at Madonna's fortress Hollywood home, talks to his lawyer in a Los Angeles court yesterday. Police claim Mr Hoskins has been pursuing the pop star

## Shot fan denies Madonna threat

for two months and threatened to cut her throat if she would not marry him. Guards who caught him say

he carried a small wooden heart with the words "Love to my wife Madonna" [sic]. Mr Hoskins, who was ordered to be detained in a jail medical ward until a hearing set for June 14, denies charges of threats, assault, and stalking.

## Banned drug used by Aids patients

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

DECADES after thalidomide was banned for causing a mass of birth defects, the drug is being sold on the black market in America as a treatment for Aids.

The drug, prescribed as a sedative and cure for morning sickness in Britain and America from the early 1960s, caused public outrage after it was found to have terrifying side-effects for future mothers.

Now it has re-emerged as an experimental treatment for the late symptoms of Aids. The Food and Drug Administration in Washington has been testing thalidomide on patients suffering from ulcers and cancer sores as well as the drastic weight loss, or cachexia, associated with the final stages of the syndrome.

Although the administration is treading carefully, many patients and doctors are not waiting for the results of the tests and instead are purchasing thalidomide through an underground network of "buying clubs" organised by Aids activists.

The drug administration said yesterday that it had made no attempt to close the clubs, but might have to consider such a measure if persuasion failed. "Our goal is the same and that is to relieve suffering and provide quality of life," said Ivy Cupec, an official. "But it is inappropriate to sell thalidomide in an uncontrolled environment."

## CNN breeds nation of news junkies chasing a quick fix

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

IF ARMAGEDDON ever comes, it seems safe to assume that most of America will be glued to its television sets and tuned to CNN as the final hour approaches.

Ted Turner's Cable News Network is 15 years old this month and in that short space of time the 24-hour all-news television station has affected American culture more profoundly than even the ambitious Mr Turner could have expected.

Largely thanks to CNN and its imitators, America is more than ever a nation of news junkies. Over the past decade and a half, the vast audience for the traditional news broadcasts of CBS, ABC and NBC has slowly dwindled as viewers and listeners tune in to "Get it first, get it fast, get it now!" as one all-news radio station puts it.

In times of crisis or high drama — the exploding space shuttle Challenger, the Gulf War, the O.J. Simpson "chase" along the Los Angeles motorways, the Oklahoma City bombing — America automatically turns to CNN. In bars, airports, hotel lobbies, corner shops and anywhere else where people might pause and watch, the news pours out in a steady, heady stream.

That has changed subtly the way the news is perceived. No longer is it a series of events to be explained and analysed nightly by a set of experts, but increasingly a form of vivid instant entertainment. "The news is always changing," CNN's jingle says, "so tune in two, three, four times a day."

If you do not, it is implied, you may miss something, an important episode in the endless soap opera that is real life. One effect of that has been to make Americans far better informed about the world they live in than ever before, but the CNN phenomenon has also altered how news is defined in ways that its inventors did not plan.

When Mr Turner launched the world's first super-news station in 1981, he was widely derided. His avowed intention was to provide the sort of in-depth analysis, investigative reporting and accurate

commentary that the big networks had no time for. His critics said that the American public, let alone the advertisers, lacked the appetite to sustain such a venture, and in a sense they were right.

Instead of creating more fully researched coverage, CNN has sometimes tended to churn out news so quickly that it arrives on screen virtually unfiltered, more often driven by pictures than analysis. CNN often works brilliantly when events are breaking at a rapid clip, but when the news slows, the coverage falters.

The net result is not "all news, all the time", but a particular sort of graphically led, easily digestible news, all the time. Last year Turner Broadcasting Systems grew more quickly than any other American network, with annual revenues of almost \$670 million (£420 million). That has been achieved by concentrating heavily on those types of news coverage that keep viewers riveted: in

other words, the O.J. Simpson trial, which has sent CNN's ratings through the roof as no other news event in the network's history, with the possible exception of the Gulf War.

According to the latest viewing figures, nearly a quarter of the American population tunes in regularly to watch live coverage of the O.J. Simpson trial, now in its 89th soporific day. Events of far greater moment may be taking place elsewhere, but live courtroom coverage has the immediacy that is CNN's lifeblood. *The Wall Street Journal* reported this week that the trial had cost an estimated \$27.6 billion in lost productivity by American workers.

The print media and more traditional television outlets have accused CNN of trivialising the news, but these outlets are equally in thrall to the quick fix offered by 24-hour coverage. President Clinton even has CNN piped into his bathroom at the White House and Saddam Hussein and President Yeltsin also rely on the network to find out what is happening.



Should the power of the press be limited?  
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## THE TIMES ANTIQUES FAIRS

On Wednesday June 7th 1995, The Times will be publishing a 24 page supplement highlighting four major London Fairs

- The Fine Art and Antiques Fair, Olympia
- The Grosvenor House Art and Antiques Fair
- The International Ceramics Fair and Seminar
- The Thirties Antiques Bookfair 1995

مكتبة الأهل



# Sightseers turn a blind eye to horror of Tiananmen

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN PEKING

TIANANMEN Square, scene of the violent suppression of pro-Democracy demonstrations six years ago tomorrow, was filled yesterday with hundreds of provincial tourists eager to have their pictures taken in front of a giant portrait of Mao Tse-tung and with little thought of the carnage tomorrow's anniversary represents.

The 29ft high portrait of Mao was hit by ink-filled eggs during the Tiananmen protests — and the man who did it was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Security agents in plain clothes, muscular young men carrying cameras and quite unlike real Chinese tourists, were in evidence in the square, but not overwhelmingly so. They sent an American TV crew packing, but there was no repetition of the tactics of 1989, when journalists were beaten up.

Security does not need to be too obvious: there is a big barracks on the southeast of the square and reinforcements can appear in minutes in the event of trouble. Most people yesterday seemed intent on enjoying their leisure after China's recent move to a five-day working week.

In these early summer days, Peking girls wear mini-skirts and shorts. They mingle with migrant workers, or *mingong*, from the countryside who are seeking city jobs. The *mingong* wear old-style Mao suits and caps, bringing the two contemporary faces of China into sharp contrast.

Yet even the shorts have a political rationale. "It is natural we wear such clothes because we are not in a period of reform," one girl, 20, said.

Elsewhere, another young girl was asking: "What did Chairman Mao do here, Dad?" as she pointed to over-stuffed arm chairs behind the rostrum of Tiananmen Gate.

"This is where Chairman Mao rested," her father replied. Most Peking citizens asked about tomorrow's bloody anniversary prefer not to answer.

"Look, I'm making 300 renminbi (about £25) a day and have a happy life with a wife and one child," Wang said yesterday he considered the *mingong*, who are thought to number 100 million, a much greater security threat to social stability in China than the political dissidents who have been rounded up or been forwarding petitions to the central Government asking for greater political freedom.

Tanli, 38, a taxi-driver, said, "Why should I want to trouble with the police? Politics is played out away over the heads of the common folk. Ordinary citizens want to concentrate on bettering their lives."

Among those with money on their minds were two well-dressed women at Tiananmen Gate, one wearing expensive gold earrings.

Though prostitution is common in south China and Shanghai it is usually much more discreet in Peking, particularly around Tiananmen. But these women made it clear they were offering sex for sale.

Most of the complaints of Peking citizens these days are about the *mingong*, regarded as country bumpkins by city folk. "They're smelly and bump into you on the buses," sniffed one Chinese office worker. "They carry their belongings in these great dirty bags which you trip over all the time on the Underground."

One Chinese researcher, 32, said yesterday he considered the *mingong*, who are thought to number 100 million, a much greater security threat to social stability in China than the political dissidents who have been rounded up or been forwarding petitions to the central Government asking for greater political freedom.



The joy of Casper when he finds Christina Ricci in his bed in Steven Spielberg's film has not pleased everyone

## Ghostly libido exercises film critics

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A FILM produced by Steven Spielberg about a lightbulb-shaped ghost and a teenage girl has been condemned for what one critic calls its "graphic violence, obscene language and perverted characterization".

*Casper*, based on a comic strip devised in 1945, is about the struggle of a young ghost with a large, translucent head to befriend the daughter of a self-styled psychiatrist to the spirits. Although ninth-century innocuous and coyly sentimental throughout, the film allows the ghost's adolescent libido to surface in a slow dance, a goodnight kiss and the line: "There's a girl in my bed! Yes!" Such excitement merely reflects the reality of

contemporary teenage America, according to a spokesman for Amblin Entertainment, Mr Spielberg's production company. It is certainly not the kind of depravity denounced by Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader. In his recent attacks on Hollywood, but it has enraged Russell Harvey, whose father was for many years the guardian of Casper's good name.

Mr Harvey Sr bought the screen rights to the wartime phantom from its creators, Seymour Reli and Joseph Oriolo, and sold them in 1989, shortly before his death. Under his stewardship, Casper underwent incarnations in print, cartoons and television series and became

loved by millions of American children as an asexual confidant deserving of their trust. Russell Harvey told the *USA Today* newspaper last week. He called the new film, in which a computer-animated Casper stars opposite the real teenage actress Christina Ricci, "an insult to the wholesome traditions my father stood for as a leader in the field of children's entertainment".

Mr Harvey called for the film to be withdrawn from cinemas, an idea scoffed at by its distributor, Universal Pictures. *Casper*, defying bad reviews and enhancing Mr Spielberg's reputation as a producer with the *Midas touch*, took \$22 million (£14 million) in its first weekend.

## Colony on alert for sharks

Hong Kong: A shark alert was declared in Hong Kong yesterday as huge crowds flocked to the beaches for the annual Dragon Boat festival, after the second death in three days of a suspected shark victim (Catherine Field writes).

Experts fear that the two men, killed within a mile of each other, were attacked by the same shark that terrorised the area two years ago, also with the loss of two lives. Vic Hislop, an Australian shark hunter, said it was possibly a great white shark, at least 20ft long and weighing more than two tonnes.

Black flags were hoisted on beaches yesterday to warn the crowds. But the alert came too late to save a man, 29, who was swimming six yards from the shore at Sheung Sze Wan beach when he was suddenly dragged under the water. When his body was found, his right leg had been torn off.

On Thursday, the body of Tso Kam-Sun, 44, a swimmer who had represented Hong Kong in the 1970 Asian Games, was found with his right leg cleanly severed.

## Mandela admits ordering killings

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A STORM has broken after President Mandela's admission in the South African Senate this week that he had ordered security guards at the headquarters of the African National Congress to shoot to kill Inkatha Freedom Party marchers if they attacked the building.

The right-wing Conservative Party called for Mr Mandela to be dismissed and charged with murder. Inkatha said it was "appalled" at the admission, while the liberal Democratic Party called it "worrying".

Eight Inkatha marchers died when the ANC guards opened fire on them in the "Shell House Massacre" on March 28 last year. More than 50 other Zulu marchers died that day in the centre of Johannesburg as unidentified gunmen shot at the crowd from surrounding buildings.

Mr Mandela intervened in the subsequent police inquiry and effectively prevented police from entering Shell House, the ANC headquarters, questioning the guards, or examining weapons in the building.

He revealed his role in a Senate speech after being harried by the National and Democratic parties over the events surrounding the march. He said that he had appealed to President de Klerk, the national police chief, and the local police commissioner to prevent the march from threatening the ANC, but that nothing was done. Mr Mandela said: "I gave instructions to our security that if they attacked the house, please you must protect that house — even if you have to kill people ... it was absolutely necessary for me to give that instruction."

The President has also made further threats to act against any "undermining of the constitution" and political killings in KwaZulu/Natal. During a visit to Tanzania this week, Mr Mandela blamed the troubles in the province on Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader and Home Affairs Minister. The next day the President declared that the Government would "sideline and even crush" dissident forces in South Africa.

Although extra police and troops have been deployed at flashpoints in the province, the rate of political murders in May remained virtually unchanged from April, which had increased from March. The ANC and Inkatha, the two biggest parties in KwaZulu/Natal, are at loggerheads over the extent of powers to be devolved from the central Government to the provinces. The ANC broke its promise, made on the eve of last year's general election, to allow international mediation on the issue. Inkatha accordingly walked out of the assembly drawing up a new constitution in Cape Town.

## Lee visit becomes fiasco for Clinton

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

WHAT should have been a simple visit to his alma mater by the leader of Taiwan is fast becoming a diplomatic nightmare for the Clinton Administration as President Lee Teng-hui tries to expand his American sojourn into what US officials described as "an imperial tour".

Mr Lee, granted a visa to enter the United States for a campus reunion at Cornell University in upstate New York next week, wanted to stop first in New York City but was quickly told that he must fly to the small airport at Syracuse, well away from the media glare of the Big Apple.

The Syracuse affair is part of a much wider diplomatic row being waged between Taiwanese officials and members of the Clinton Administration. Under sufferance and congressional pressure, President Clinton changed a 16-year-old policy last week by granting permission for Mr Lee to enter America. In doing so, Mr Clinton seriously damaged ties with China, which has always regarded Taiwan as an illegitimate state.

Having since suffered harsh retaliation from Peking in the form of communications and suspended visits by delegations in both countries, Mr Clinton now faces the prospect of a diplomatic fiasco with the arrival of Mr Lee. Almost every stop and each event of the four-day visit — starting with a brief stop in Los Angeles — has been the subject of intense negotiation



Lee: his trip has started a wider diplomatic row

between Washington and Taipei. Taiwanese officials want a dinner or reception in Los Angeles for Mr Lee and a meeting with Pete Wilson, the Governor of California, and Richard Riordan, the Mayor. To avoid any signs of an official imprimatur, however, American officials have said he can meet no officials from the State Department or any other executive branch of government and he will not be seen in Washington.

Republicans in Congress, recognising the potential for embarrassment to Mr Clinton, are considering organising meetings outside the capital. Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, is planning a special plane to take members of Congress to Cornell to see the Taiwanese President, who gained a doctorate from the university in 1968.

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Italian viewers outraged as chat show host fêtes former Red Brigades' leader as star guest

## TV turns to radical chic

ITALIAN victims of terrorism jammed the switchboards of RAI television when Adriana Faranda, a former leading member of the Red Brigades, appeared as the star guest on the chat show *I Fatti Vostri* (Your Business).

A former commander of the Marxist group's Rome "column", she was sentenced in 1979 to life imprisonment for various crimes, including the murder of a judge and her part in the kidnap and subsequent assassination in 1978 of Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister. When she had served 15 years, she was released after her dissociation from the Brigades' activities. Signora Faranda has now become the left-wing anchor's most sought after guest, even though her television presence is forcing Italians to re-examine the "years

ROME FILE  
by JOHN  
PHILLIPS



security Rebibbia prison, denounced the show as shameful. He said: "Faranda presented herself as if she was going to a fashion show. She says she went on television to 'help people to understand', but it is obviously a purely political operation." Giuseppina Tutobene, widow of a police colonel murdered by the Brigades in 1980, said: "Seeing Faranda treated obsequiously on television insults the memory of our dead."

Signor Magalli replied: "Faranda is a destroyed woman. There is nothing wrong with people coming face-to-face with the failure of a mistaken ideology."

Despite the outrage caused by the RAI show, Sandro Curzi, head of news of the private Telemontecarlo station, interviewed Signora Faranda when she made an appearance in the VIP area of the Foro Italico Rome international tennis championship, one of the smartest events of the Rome spring social season. Another private station, Cinquestelle, invited her to a debate during which she appealed for an amnesty for hundreds of her former comrades and right-wing militants still in prison or living in exile.

Her call for an amnesty has, however, received unexpected support from former President Cossiga, who was Interior Minister during the Moro kidnap. He resigned over Rome's failure to rescue him.

of lead" when the brigades' violence threatened Italy's democratic process.

"We must always give a reply to those who seek to understand," she told Giancarlo Magalli, her RAI show host. She said she had tried to persuade other brigatisti not to murder Moro and had called for "collective reflection" on the origins of urban guerrilla warfare.

However Sergio Lenzi, an architect who still has a bullet lodged in his skull from a 1980 attack by the extreme Left because he had designed Rome's high-

## CIA link in Milan bombing

RELATIONS between Rome and Washington have chilled since the arrest on perjury charges last month of an Italian, who allegedly was a former CIA agent.

The former wartime Fascist, who is now aged 70, has not been identified, but he is suspected by Guido Salvini, the magistrate in Milan, of involvement in the still unexplained bombing of a Milan bank at the Piazza Fontana in

1969. Sixteen people were killed in the explosion.

Signor Salvini ordered the man to be held in Milan's San Vittore jail after Carlo Digilio, a former right-wing terrorist, turned state's evidence.

Digilio accused him of acting as the CIA contact with the far-right gang, Ordine Nuovo, which was believed to be responsible for the bombing.

## Fresh arrest widens Mafia investigation

THE arrest on fraud charges last week of Marcello Dell'Utri, the effective treasurer of Italy's Fininvest media group and right-hand man of Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, came as no surprise to investigators in his native Sicily.

Between 1977 and 1981, Signor Dell'Utri and his brother, Alberto, worked as joint managing directors for a group of companies owned by Filippo Alberto Rapisarda, accused of being a well-known Mafia boss, according to judicial sources quoted by *La Repubblica*. Signor Rapisarda told the police he had employed the two on the recommendation of Stefano Bontade, allegedly one of the most powerful Cosa Nostra dons in Sicily. Alberto Dell'Utri was recently placed under judicial investigation in Catania on suspicion of laundering Mafia money and arms dealing.

Before his murder in 1992, Judge Paolo Borsellino, the crime-fighter, had opened an inquiry into Vittorio Mangano, a Mafia boss who was allegedly employed by Signor Berlusconi to set up a stud farm at his villa at Arcore on the outskirts of Milan. Judge Borsellino had suspected Signor Mangano of being a key intermediary between the Sicilian underworld and northern Italian industrialists.



Adriana Faranda talks from behind bars to a lawyer during an appeal hearing

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## Sakhalin rescue bid slows

Neftegorsk: Only one rescue team was working yesterday in the rubble of this shattered town in the Russian Far East, indicating that hopes of finding more people alive were fading fast, five days after the earthquake struck Sakhalin.

The official death toll was put at 771 yesterday, although the final figure is expected to be about 2,000. The quake also destroyed 230 oil wells and miles of power lines. The cost of material damage was put at \$41 million. (Reuters/APF)

## 'Militant' killed

Hebron: Israelis fired anti-tank missiles at a suspected Muslim militant hideout in the West Bank, killing Hamad Yagmur, 24, a Palestinian wanted for questioning about several attacks. (AP)

## Writer weds

Dhaka: Taslima Nasreen, the exiled feminist writer, has married for the third time. It was reported here. Her husband, Daud Haider is an exiled Bangladeshi poet living in Germany. (Reuters)

## Rail tragedy

Delhi: At least 48 people were killed and 76 injured when the Janmukti express collided with a goods train near Kalubathan on the border of the eastern states of Bihar and West Bengal. (Reuters)

## Veto defied

Kiev: President Kuchma of Ukraine intends to go ahead with a referendum on confidence in him and parliament despite a veto by deputies, who said the poll would destabilise the country. (Reuters)

## Revenge trial

Tirana: Ilir Hoxha, eldest son of Albania's late Communist dictator Enver Hoxha, goes on trial today charged with endangering public peace after calling for revenge against the country's leaders. (Reuters)

## 'Carlos' arrest

Berlin: Germany is seeking the extradition from Yemen of Johannes Weinrich, an alleged accomplice of the captured Ulich Ramirez Sanchez, who is better known as Carlos the Jackal. (AP)

## Undercover work

Bonn: German border guards turned back a whip-wielding Czech woman, 24. She had no work permit, only an assortment of handcuffs and sexy lingerie suggesting she was trying to get work illegally. (Reuters)

## Gagarin revelled in drunken excesses

FROM REUTERS  
IN MOSCOW

YURI GAGARIN, the first man in space and one of the former Soviet Union's greatest heroes, could not cope with his fame and indulged in alcohol and outrageous behaviour, the *Moskovsky Komsomolets* newspaper said yesterday.

The newspaper, which specialises in sensational stories, made the claim in an article that published extracts from the diaries of Nikolai Karanin, the air force officer in charge of training the first group of cosmonauts. Mr Karanin said that at one point Gagarin badly smashed his face when vaulting out of a woman's bedroom after being surprised by his wife.

Rumours about Gagarin's excesses circulated for decades but were suppressed by the authorities. The air force pilot became the first man in space on April 12, 1961, at the age of 27. He died in a mysterious plane crash in March 1968 after apparently becoming disoriented in low cloud. Some say he was drunk at the time.

The Soviet leadership, keen to trumpet its technological superiority over America, sent him on gruelling trips across the country and then around the world to advertise his feat. Mr Karanin said Gagarin was soon out of control.

According to the extracts, one night in October 1961 Gagarin had tried to seduce a maid in a second-floor hotel bedroom.

When his wife arrived and banged on the door, he leapt off the balcony and hit his face on the concrete below. He needed emergency surgery to reconstruct his left eyebrow, and missed what would have been a triumphant appearance two weeks later at the 22nd Congress of the ruling Communist Party.

The newspaper printed photographs of what it said was Gagarin's face before and after the accident, which clearly showed the cosmonaut's left eyebrow was deformed.



Gagarin: first man in space

## £31m for Nazi victims

Vienna: Austria has created a 500 million schilling (£31 million) fund for victims of the Nazis during the Second World War.

MPs, who approved the measure on Thursday night, said it showed Austrians were finally recognising that their compatriots participated in Nazi war crimes. The move is intended to improve existing compensation which operates under tight regulations.

Paul Grosz, leader of Austria's Jewish community, said

that the fund could help to "solve the problem". However, he said that individual Nazi victims did not yet know how much compensation they could receive, and those who lived abroad had not been told how to inquire about it.

An estimated 200,000 Austrian Jews fled the Nazis or died in concentration camps. It is believed that there are only 30,000 surviving victims, of whom less than half have been traced by the Austrian Government. (AP)

مكتبة



# Broadcasters pull plug on Cold War propaganda

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE microphone will be switched off for the last time today in the Munich headquarters of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, source of communist regimes and symbol of the East-West propaganda war for four decades.

The staff, most of whom are former East European exiles, has been reduced from 1,200 to 300 and moved to Prague where, still under American supervision, the station will broadcast in a modest way to the post-communist world. The shift closes a chapter of the Cold War and was regarded as a sad occasion by many of the broadcasters.

"There have been many distressed feelings," Martin Bachstein, the acting director, said. "As of Saturday night, it's all over."

In its heyday, the joint Radio Free Europe (RFE) and Radio Liberty (RL) station was the object of intense hatred from the communist authorities. A KGB agent placed a bomb in the Munich radio complex in 1961, and staff still speculate whether the bomber was a Czech or a terrorist ally.

of Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, known as Carlos the Jackal. Agents from several East European spy services tried to infiltrate the station. Georgi Markov, the Bulgarian writer, penned scathing commentaries for the Bulgarian section and was killed by a poisoned pellet in an umbrella. RFE, which broadcast to Eastern Europe, and Radio Liberty, which transmitted to the Soviet Union, were denounced as CIA stooges almost daily in an attempt to discredit the news and analyses that could be picked up in most homes behind the Iron Curtain.

Heavy jamming blocked some shortwave broadcasts, but most people, and many members of the political class, managed to hear the messages that cut through the daily fodder of manipulated and censored information.

The CIA did fund the station from its "black budget" during the 1950s and 1960s, and the initial aim was plainly to destabilise the Soviet empire. The CIA staffers in Munich in the early 1950s seemed to be

convinced that the communist implosion was imminent: plans were drawn up to convert the ugly prefabricated building into a hospital as soon as the radio station had completed its mission.

The broadcasters, too, scored international scoops. A Polish secret serviceman defected in the 1950s and gave the station intimate details of the luxurious lifestyles of the communist elite in Warsaw. James Angleton, a CIA agent, obtained a copy of late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's secret denunciation of Stalin — and the station promptly broadcast the text.

Yet, the communists stayed stubbornly in power, as the station was hit by one funding crisis after another. Eventually, the CIA connection was ended in 1971, and the broadcasters were put under the control of a congressional commission.

The latest funding cut, from \$208 million (£130 million) to \$75 million a year, has proved almost fatal. Only the low operating costs of the Czech Republic — the broadcasters

are taking a 40 per cent cut in wages — will keep it on the air.

President Havel, who turned into the station as a dissident, offered to house it in the former Czechoslovak federal parliament building. The radio archives, which include reference cards on 350,000 East European politicians and three million items on the former Soviet Union, have been leased to George Soros, the Hungarian-born financier. The Polish and Czech sections of RFE now administer themselves and may soon become fully commercialised.

Many of the old staff are unhappy about the move to the East. Some, after a lifetime campaigning against communist abuses, are reluctant to work in a former communist country. Others have established deep roots in Munich which is home to many Eastern émigré communities.

The move also has been dogged by controversy. William Marsh, a former president of RFE-RL, resigned last year in protest at the transfer which he said would harm the quality of the station.



Bishop Vogel: said the pressures of his new post led him to have an affair

## Catholic bishop quits over pregnancy

Zurich: Switzerland's youngest Roman Catholic bishop has resigned after making his girlfriend pregnant, the Basle diocese said yesterday.

Mgr Hansjörg Vogel, 44, said in a public letter to the clergy and people that he had turned to the woman, who has not been named, for comfort from the pressures caused by his appointment as head of the Basle diocese, which has a million members, in January last year.

"This relationship led to a pregnancy... I had to recognise that it was no longer possible for me to carry out my duties with credibility."

The Pope has condemned priests who break their vow of celibacy. In 1993, after a string of clerical sex scandals in America and Ireland, he urged the Church to be careful in recruiting its priests.

Mgr Vogel said he was certain that his resignation would lead to renewed debate about the Church's requirement of celibacy, but added: "I remain convinced that it is possible to lead a fulfilling life in celibacy." (Reuters)

## Madrid's smart set flocks to see death in the afternoon

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

YOUNG señoritas are flocking back to the bullring as protests from animal rights groups are replaced by choruses of old. Bullfighting is once again chic.

But according to animal rights activists, it is also subsidised by the European Union, which pays £147 for the carcass of every bull killed.

The annual San Isidro fiesta in Madrid is the biggest ever. When it ends next week, 56 matadors will have fought at Las Ventas, bullfighting's Wembley.

The 24,000-seat bullring, with tickets to see all the fights ranging from £2,000 at the ringside to £50, has been completely sold out. Bullfighting is now big business. Last year, according to the Royal Spanish Federation of Bullfighting, £777 million was spent on 42 million tickets.

"Bullfighting has become popular for two reasons," said William Lyon, an American journalist and resident of Madrid, who has become one of the most respected bullfight critics and authors. "The big fiestas have become a see-and-be-seen scene — like Wimbledon. The corporate entertaining is lavish. The increase in live television coverage has given some matadors the sta-

tus of pop idols." Bullfighting, he said, changed early this century. "Juan Belmonte began the artistic revolution by bringing together the elegant elements, and it gradually moved from being the domination of a fierce animal to a ballet. But breeding a suitable partner has now reached ridiculous extremes, and one result is that many bulls are too weak."

José Manuel Cordero, editor of the Madrid ring magazine, said: "The feria is more popular because companies buy lots of tickets and many people, film and television stars, come just to be seen — we call them the 'estrellas' set. Only about 1,000 real aficionados are present."

Despite the Spanish Animal Defence Association's efforts, there are more fights each year. Last year, in 1,429 official corridas and novilladas (young bulls fighting young matadors), some 7,400 bulls were slaughtered. According to the association, this means the EU pays a total subsidy of £1.1 million if every breeder claims.

As Orson Welles supposedly said to a stained torero after a fight: "Well, you may have won a lot of money, but you are sweating blood."

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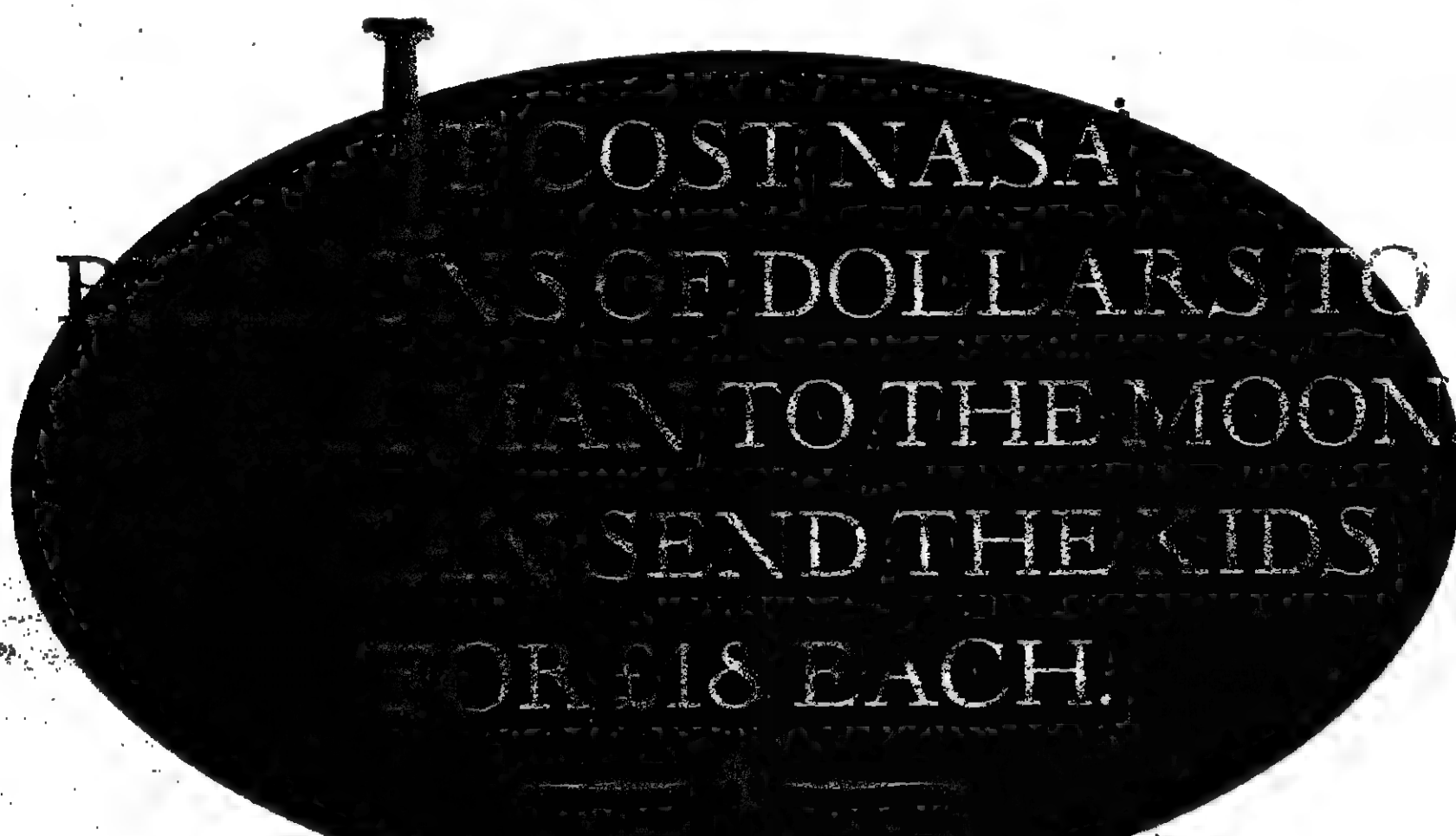
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# Chechen rebels encircled, Russian generals claim

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN SERZHEN-YURT, CHECHENIA

RUSSIAN military authorities claimed yesterday to have practically surrounded the rebel Chechen headquarters town of Vedeno, where a bomb destroyed a building said to house the staff of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the separatist leader.

The reported offensive came a day after General Dudayev's government broke off negotiations, saying that the Russians had no intention of seeking peace. The Russian claims to have made big advances could not be independently confirmed, and to judge by the Chechen front line earlier, the claims seem greatly exaggerated.

The evidence of Russian defeat littered the roadside in the frontline village of Serzhen-Yurt this week after its defenders beat off the latest attack. The Chechen forces may have been pushed back a long way in the past six months, but they are still resisting strongly.

Serzhen-Yurt lies in a strategic position at the top of a valley and 11 miles from Vedeno. Like the rest of the

new Chechen front line in the Caucasus foothills, it is protected on either side by steep wooded slopes.

It would take well-trained, and well-motivated mountain infantry to capture such a position, and this the Russian Army does not have. One reason is that the mountain troops of the Soviet Army were stationed in the Carpathian Mountains of Ukraine, and went to that state in 1992.

In their attack of Serzhen-Yurt, the Russians used the same blunt tactics they employed at first in the attack on Grozny, the capital. After intermittent bombardment for several weeks, and two previous failed attacks, two Russian armoured columns last Sunday tried to approach the village through the hills on either side, while a third smashed through the middle, up the main road.

The result was humiliating. The two columns on either side either got lost or bogged down on the forest tracks. The central column drove straight through the village, but finding itself isolated and under

fire from every side, turned and fled. Two armoured vehicles were abandoned, along with soldiers' personal possessions, including helmets, uniforms, military passes, a woman's pink frilly night-dress, and a copy of the book *Rambo* in Russian.

Most of the Chechen soldiers stood their ground and fought, although the brief appearance of the Russian column at the southern end of the village produced one of the few instances of panic I have seen on the Chechen side. Ten miles up the road, I ran into a Chechen soldier fleeing from the fighting, who said that Serzhen-Yurt had been surrounded, its defenders cut off, and that the Chechen commanders were "rats, sitting in Vedeno and doing nothing".

In general, however, the morale of the Chechen defenders remains astonishingly high, given the fury of the bombardments over the past two months. The main street is lined with ruined houses, and when I visited it, half a dozen more were on fire from the latest air raid. Every 50 yards

or so were huge craters from bombs or smaller ones from rockets. At intervals lay dead cows and calves, one of which the Chechen fighters were skinning.

Squatting by the road, Bislan Yakiyev, a Chechen fighter, said: "We know what we're up against, how much stronger they are. But we'll wear them down in the mountains, and then one day we'll return to Grozny."

The future course of this war is difficult to predict. On the one hand, for all their courage, the Chechen forces are clearly in a bad way. A good many fighters have given up and gone home, while some of those who remain look exhausted.

On the other hand, Russian forces have spent almost two months trying unsuccessfully to capture this one village.

If they want to capture the rest of the territory in the hands of the Chechen resistance, they will have to fight determined defenders across a series of steep wooded ridges, ending in the icy heights of the main Caucasus range.



A farmer takes to his boat after the river Glomma burst its banks in Norway's worst floods for 25 years. The river has risen 13ft. swollen by melting snow and rain. One pensioner drowned when his car was swept away

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Plus, this Sunday, the second part of Margaret Thatcher's memoirs: How Oxford, politics and a man called Denis turned the shy girl from Grantham into a woman in pursuit of power.



### Church seeks to stem exodus

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AN HISTORIC church meeting opens today at a seminary near Bethlehem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank to try to halt the exodus of Christians from the biblical region.

Inspired by the new spirit of peace in the Middle East and the need to prepare policy for the third millennium, the synod is intended to continue for four years before final decisions will be announced. In addition to trying to tackle the numerical decline of Christianity among Palestinians that began more than a century ago at the time of Ottoman domination, the meeting is expected to take a strong stand on the question of Palestinian land, housing and national rights.

"We are in an historic and decisive stage from a political and social point of view," said Father Adib Zomlot, the Chancellor of the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem. "The Church should strive to revive the faith and confidence of the natives of the area in their heritage and countries."

About 140,000 Roman Catholics remain in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Israel and Jordan, and at least as many Orthodox Christians. They are heavily outnumbered across the region by Jews and Muslims, the latter now the demographic majority in Bethlehem, the biblical birthplace of Jesus.

Not only will members of the Latin (Roman Catholic) community be participating in the synod, which brings together members of the hierarchy, clergy and lay people, but also Greek Catholics, Armenian Catholics, Chaldean Catholics, Coptic Catholics, Maronites and Syrian Catholics. Eastern-Orthodox Christians will be invited as guests.

Father Rafiq Khoury, the secretary-general of the synod, said it was hoped that it might help local Christians to feel more rooted in the land. The exodus to the West, which began under Muslim Turkish rule increased at every fresh turn of the Middle East conflict: when Israel was born in 1948, during the Arab-Israeli wars that followed, and at the time of the Palestinian uprising of the late 1980s.

In the occupied West Bank and the newly autonomous Gaza, Christians are now just 3 per cent of the population, although nearly 7 per cent of Palestinians worldwide.

### WORLD SUMMARY

### Militants accused of Bhutto plot

Islamabad: Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistani Prime Minister, accused militants of plotting to kill her, and several people have been arrested in connection with the alleged plot, the state-run news agency said yesterday.

Miss Bhutto blamed a "linguistic group", a common way of referring to the Mohajir Qaumi Movement in Karachi, where violence by rival ethnic and religious groups has killed more than 600 people this year. Yesterday, along with a group of men, she was arrested three people, including a Saudi student, in sporadic attacks. (AP)

### Kuwait MPs in debt challenge

Kuwait City: A clash is looming between the Kuwaiti Government and parliament, which is insisting the country's richest people start paying off their government debts, totalling some \$12 billion, on time. Khalaf Dmuthir, a pro-government MP, said he expects the Cabinet to propose an amendment postponing the first debt repayments scheduled for September next year. MPs could also ask for a list of debtors. The list is thought to include members of the royal al-Sabah family. (AFP)

### Simpson trial threatened

Los Angeles: The shocking jury threat besetting the O. J. Simpson murder trial intensified yesterday, with the dismissal of a ninth juror widely forecast and two more said to be under investigation for alleged misconduct. With three reserve jurors remaining, Judge Lance may be forced to declare a mistrial unless lawyers from both sides agree to continue with fewer than 12 jurors.

### Sect linked to arms deals

Tokyo: Aum Shinrikyo, the doomsday sect linked to the Tokyo subway gas attack, planned to sell hundreds of Russian tanks to China to improve its arms-deals links with Moscow, according to Yomiuri Shimbun. Twelve people died and more than 5,000 were hurt in the sarin attack on March 20. (Reuters)

### Search for aliens finds fast food and phones

Sydney: American astronomers scanning space for alien radio signals said yesterday that their four-month search with an Australian telescope picked up earthly microwave ovens, but no signs of another civilisation.

"We can tell when it's dinnertime," said Peter Backus, one of the astronomers at the Parkes radio telescope, 220 miles west of Sydney. "I think we have ruled out just about everything [likely to be alien]," he said. Most of the signals received were from satellites,

but others were from mobile telephones, microwave ovens and perhaps even garage-door openers.

The search for alien life using Australia's biggest telescope was the first step in an international effort mounted by California's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Institute (SETI). The team has been scanning the heavens day and night since early February.

If extra-terrestrials fail to get in touch by Tuesday, they will resume their search from California. (Reuters)

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# West prepares to send 10,000 more troops to Bosnia

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FOURTEEN defence ministers from Nato, Sweden and Finland, meeting in Paris today, are expected to approve the dispatching of two new brigades to Bosnia, one under British command and the other under French control.

After a week in which several proposals have been made by Britain and France to boost the United Nations' military presence in Bosnia, the ministers in Paris will focus on the two brigades that will consist of a total of about 10,000 men.

The first will be Britain's 24 Airmobile Brigade which will go as a self-contained all-British unit, commanded by Brigadier Robin Brims. The second, commanded by a French officer, will be multinational, and is expected to include elements of British units already in Bosnia or in the process of arriving to form a theatre reserve force.

Diplomatic sources said there was some concern that, with the French wanting their own rapid-reaction force, the United Nations Protection Force (Unprofor) in Bosnia might end up with three new mobile reaction units — one French and two British, 24 Airmobile Brigade, and the more modest theatre reserve force that is being based on the 1st Battalion The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment. But the sources said the theatre re-

serve force was largely being formed out of existing assets in Bosnia, although strengthened by the arrival of 105mm light guns, two Lynx helicopters and, eventually, more Royal Engineers' armoured vehicles.

The two rapid-reaction brigades will be totally new forces available to Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, the UN commander in Bosnia, for missions including escorting supplies to Unprofor based in the most vulnerable areas such as Gorazde, Srebrenica and Sarajevo.

However, France's idea for using the French-led brigade

## NATO

to create a secure corridor into Sarajevo is expected to be dropped because of British concerns that this would require enforcement action, inappropriate under a peace-keeping mandate.

With the creation of a French-led multinational reaction force, in addition to the British 24 Airmobile Brigade and the 1,200 British reinforcements already on the way, Unprofor's total manpower will increase from about 22,000 to more than 33,000.

Among the governments that have troops serving in Bosnia, the rush of extra troops and guns is helping to

re-establish a sense of purpose, but it is yet unclear what effect the mobilisation is having on the Serbs and the Bosnian Government. The greatest danger is that Sarajevo will regard the reinforcements as evidence that the West is finally coming down on its side against the Serbs.

If the Bosnian Muslims believe that Britain and France, the two principal players in Bosnia, are in a mood to pursue the Serbs, then the Serbs must also harbour suspicions that the extra firepower and manpower is aimed at teaching them a lesson. This interpretation, understandable in the circumstances, could quickly lead to disillusionment among the Muslims and embarrassment for Unprofor which is attempting, amid all the political rhetoric, to preserve its status as a neutral peacekeeping force.

Ever since Washington started pushing for airstrikes in 1993, the Muslims have convinced themselves that one day America would enter the war on their side — or, second best, that America would control the UN Security Council into agreeing a new strategy, under which the arms embargo would be lifted in their favour, allowing Washington to supply them with heavy artillery and guided weapons to defeat the Serbs.

The dream that America



Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, being made up for a live television appearance in Pale

would intervene has never been abandoned despite frequent statements from Washington that it was not interested in sending ground troops to Bosnia, other than to implement a peace signed by the warring factions, or to help withdraw Unprofor troops. Now, more than ever, it would be necessary for the Americans to make it clear to Sarajevo that the latest, tougher stance is not to be seen as a

signal that the Western powers are taking sides. "They have to realise that this is not a war machine which they can rely on to carry out their job for them against the Serbs," one British diplomat said. Beneath all the bluster from the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale, the sudden emergence of a determined West has increased their sense of paranoia and persuaded Radovan Karadzic, their lead-

er, to consider releasing the hostages. Last night, he was due to hold a phone-in on Bosnian and Serb television. On Thursday, although he said that any attempt to free the UN hostages by force "would be a catastrophic mistake", he also commented that the Serbs were "partially satisfied" that the international community realised that the conflict could not be solved except by political means. The

West hopes that the reinforcements and its tough stance will have a taming effect on the Serbs and that Dr Karadzic and his military henchman, General Ratko Mladic, will be forced to accept that, in taking hostages, they went one step too far. It remains to be seen whether Western governments have read the Serb mind correctly.

Leading article, page 19

## Chirac in clash with Chief of Staff

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE French Chief of Staff offered his resignation after President Chirac fiercely criticised the performance of the country's troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a daily newspaper said yesterday.

Libération said that Admiral Jacques Lanusse's offer was refused by M Chirac, who told him to stay on despite their argument on 26 May. Relations between the two men are, however, said to be tense, with commentators in Paris concerned that the action of French troops could be affected as a result.

The argument took place at a meeting of France's Defence Council just after the hostage crisis erupted last week. Ac-

## FRANCE

cusing French military commanders of being too "lax", M Chirac said United Nations soldiers had allowed themselves to be "undressed" before being taken prisoner.

Another paper, Le Monde, said the Chief of Staff never made his offer to resign explicit and merely said he had been put in a "difficult position". Yesterday, the admiral said there was a "very great consensus on the situation in Bosnia between political, diplomatic and military authorities". He implicitly confirmed the dispute, adding that it was "normal for there to be lively discussions" on the issue.

## Serbs held prisoner by their hostage strategy

By LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

IF THE Bosnian Serbs are about to release the hostages they may have held back because of a fear of retaliation after the shooting down of an American F16 fighter. The conjunction of events highlights the dilemma they have created for themselves: so long as they hold the hostages they may get respite from airstrikes but their overall position deteriorates.

Yesterday's confusion may also reflect divisions in the Bosnian Serb ranks. Taking hostages is a move that they could only try once, and to do so without results would leave their repertoire of strategic moves diminished in the context of other developments working against them. The hawk would see the loss of the hostages without firm guarantees from Nato as a disastrous error while the doves (if such birds are to be found in Pale) may have recognised that the error lay in taking the hostages.

The last week has gone badly for the Bosnian Serbs. Because the United Nations cannot be seen to be negotiating on the release of hostages, they could not talk formally to Pale about anything. Thus, so long as the crisis continues, diplomatic activity passes them by and there can be no progress towards a final settlement. There is no evidence that the Serbs see any advantage in a waiting game and their jumpiness stems from a sense that their military and political position will weaken over time.

In addition, the crisis set in motion a serious debate in the West on the future of the UN operation. This has been settled, for the moment, in favour



Unidentified French UN peacekeepers in Sarajevo after they were taken hostage by the Bosnian Serbs

of a stronger UN military presence. Instead of the Serbs sending the nations contributing to the UN protection force (Unprofor) into a frenzy of appeasement, with appeals for a safe escape route, there has been a steady build-up of Western strength. This has already begun to transform Unprofor into a much more serious player and will gradually reduce the Serbs' room for manoeuvre.

## COMMENTARY

Unprofor has been justified by the vulnerabilities exposed by the hostage taking rather than the plight of the hostages, and so their release would make scant difference to the new deployment plans to be discussed by Western defence ministers this weekend. It may be that strategic airstrikes will not loom large in these plans, but that will be because of improved land-based options, as well as the recent confirmation of the trouble that these strikes can cause. However

the UN commanders will not want to deny themselves close air support.

Another reason the pressure for more strategic airstrikes may subside is the enhanced role of London and Paris in the UN and Nato. Their decisive action has not only reduced the influence of the UN secretariat but also probably of America. Washington's voice has been muted, and President Clinton's tentative move towards a combat role on land risks satisfying neither his domestic critics nor his country's allies, and promises maximum confusion for minimum effect. The contributing nations have been shown to have a far better grasp of the dynamics of the situation.

Exactly how these dynamics will work themselves out remains uncertain. Interest in withdrawal is still widespread, especially in France. One player to watch may be the Bosnian Government. It has been relatively quiet this week but may be tempted to push its luck if it sees that its enemies are on the political defensive.

## Security council set to brush aside Boutros Ghali plan

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

## UNITED NATIONS

ENRAGED at the proposal by Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, to scale back the UN's role in Bosnia, the Security Council is set to trample over his recommendations and beef up the peace-keeping mission there.

Key Security Council members were shocked when Dr Boutros Ghali issued a much awaited policy review that failed to take into account the growing Western consensus that the UN mission should be reinforced. UN officials and commanders had been deeply involved in Western planning, attending meetings of Nato and the international Contact Group on Bosnia.

Dr Boutros Ghali's report was delayed for several days in what was described at the time as an effort to incorporate the latest Nato ideas. When the report finally came out this week, however, it made no explicit mention of British and French plans to establish a mobile reserve to strengthen the UN force. Instead, Dr Boutros Ghali recommended abandoning any use of force to defend so-called "safe areas" and said the UN Protection Force should be pulled back.

Arguing that the United Nations could not handle more robust action, he said that those who advocated a tougher stance would have to form their own task force to replace the UN peacekeepers.

The secretary-general's report found some favour with Russia, the Serbs' traditional ally, and only protector on the 15-nation Security Council. Other council members, how-

ever, described the report as an exercise in the "theory" of peacekeeping rather than an attempt to offer viable policy options. Sir David Harnay, Britain's Ambassador, suggested that the clear distinction made between "peace-keeping without the use of force" and "peace enforcement" was too "compartmentalised". Another senior Western diplomat blamed "barons" in the UN system who were wedded to an old-fashioned philosophy of peacekeeping, a clear reference to Marrack Goulding, the British UN Under-Secretary who wrote the report and is known as peace-keeping traditionalist.

Dr Boutros Ghali, after his searing experience in Somalia, has apparently decided that the United Nations cannot conduct "peace enforcement" and set his cap against hybrid peacekeeping and peace enforcement missions such as that in Bosnia. But even the UN officials involved in drafting the report knew that his recommendations would be brushed aside.

Council members were clear yesterday that the most likely outcome of their discussions would be that they would ignore Dr Boutros Ghali's advice and authorise reinforcement of the UN mission, with some reconfiguration. Britain and France, which drive UN policy in Bosnia because of their large peacekeeping contingents, are determined to achieve that result, as is the United States, which does not want the UN force to have to leave.

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# Lest we forget the victims of Yalta

Nicholas Bethell recalls the origins of the Bosnian conflict

The worsening situation in the former Yugoslavia casts a shadow over last month's Victory in Europe celebrations, reminding us that 50 years ago, Winston Churchill was not so happy as we all were at Nazi Germany's collapse.

In *Triumph and Tragedy*, the aptly titled last volume of his memoirs, he writes that he found June 1945 "hard to live through". He wrote: "All the while I felt that much we had fought for in our long struggle in Europe was slipping away and that the hopes of an early and lasting peace were receding."

This is surely the point that must now be made about last month's "VE 1995" events. Much was done to celebrate the triumph, but not so much to commemorate the tragedy, or to mark the beginning of decades of nationalist and ideological battles, many of them like the Bosnian horror linked to the East-West conflict that erupted as soon as the war against Hitler ended.

It was a veritable "third world war", resulting in tens of millions of deaths. It started with "the Polish civil war", little-known in this country except to those who saw Andrzej Wajda's film *Ashes and Diamonds*. It was only a few days after VE-Day (June 21, 1945) that a group of Polish resistance leaders were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in Moscow after a show-trial timed to coincide with the negotiations that would consolidate Stalin's hold on that country, passing Poland from one occupation to another.

British purists at the time argued that, having guaranteed Poland's independence in 1939, we should still be fighting in June 1945, since in spite of all our efforts the national integrity of Poland had not been restored. At that time, one must not forget, the West had atomic weapons and the Soviet Union did not. But that was not the majority view.

Mid-1945 was a time of other British humiliations. Julian Amery, David Smiley and other brave Special Operations Executive men who fought with the Albanian resistance had been bundled out of the country without thanks or ceremony by communist allies.

In southeast Austria and northeast Italy land assigned to the British Army was infiltrated from Yugoslavia by Marshal Tito's partisans. They wanted to annex territory from both neighbours, and in the case of Italy they succeeded. They attacked other Yugoslav fighting groups that were not communist. Large numbers of the latter, surrendered to Britain only to be handed over to Tito's men, who massacred them in large numbers. The seeds of the Bosnian war were sown by the massive killings that were carried out by our ally Marshal Tito 50 years ago.

Most humiliatingly of all, British soldiers spent June 1945 in Austria and Germany bayoneting and packaging reluctant Russians into cattle trucks, for delivery to the Soviet firing-squads or gulags, where they died of cold and hunger.

An event that Britain would do well to commemorate took place on June 1, 1945. About 4,000 Russian Cossacks, including more than a thousand women and children, were beaten and thrown into goods vans for delivery to the Soviet zone of Austria. Some British units protested, or even rebelled. When they did, other units were brought in.

There was no mention of these awful events during our VE-Day celebrations. The memorial to the innocent victims of forcible repatriation, erected opposite the Victoria and Albert Museum in London in 1986 through private donations by MPs and others, is being allowed to decay. It has been a month in which many thousands of us have visited our war memorials, but no British official has been to the "Yalta Memorial".

The aftermath of Hitler's war was of course a joy for most of us in Britain. We had survived, our boys would soon be home. But in most other European countries it was more than just a mop-up of a few problems that survived Hitler's death. It was a time of substantial civil strife, hardly a time to look back on with happiness.

In France summary justice was being meted out to men and women accused of collaboration. From mid-1945 onwards several million Germans, especially those expelled from Poland and Czechoslovakia, were about to die from cold and starvation as a result of what had just been done in their name. Soviet-backed communists were poised to take over a dozen countries. In Central Europe and the Balkans they did so. In China they won too, eventually, killing millions in the process. In France and Italy they did not win; in Greece they actually fought their civil war and lost only after great bloodshed.

There was little for these countries to celebrate in 1945 and, to Britain's surprise and dismay, little appreciation from them of our courage and success in having kept the war going for nearly six years. There were too many civil wars in progress, most of them brought about by the aspirations of Russian imperialism.

Churchill recognised that the tragedy began 50 years ago

Gulags, where they died of cold and hunger.

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How many people died in this "third world war"? Maybe more than died in the Second: 50,000 Americans in Vietnam and 20,000 Soviets in Afghanistan alone. We in Britain have lost only a few thousand in all our many postwar conflicts, but elsewhere — China, Afghanistan — the figures are high. And we must count the victims of the war's other battlefields — Korea, Angola, Ethiopia, Latin America.

It is called "the Cold War", but in fact it was a very hot war indeed. I am glad that Britain has so far managed to keep out of its worst horrors, but now is surely the right time to recognise that it all began 50 years ago and recognise the tragedy of it, as Churchill did at the time. Celebration, on its own, is not enough.

Lord Bethell is the author of *The Last Secret* (Penguin, £7.99)

Ben Macintyre investigates a museum devoted to a nation's obsession with devious theories

Clear Lee Harvey Oswald's name of all guile," exhorts a doom-laden voice from television kiosk No 3 in the newly opened Conspiracy Museum in downtown Dallas, perhaps the first institution in the world wholly dedicated to unsubstantiated myth-making and a bizarre illustration of the paranoia now running through American culture.

Located just yards from Dealey Plaza, where President John F. Kennedy was killed, the museum "exposes the truth" behind that and every other assassination, political scandal and government cover-up in America for the last 200 years.

All the little conspiracy theories add up to one big one. Chappaquiddick, Watergate, the downing of KAL flight 007, the Bay of Pigs and every assassination from Abraham Lincoln to Martin Luther King, it transpires, were the evil work of a "Professional War Machine" of Wall Street moguls, government officials and military experts. They are almost certainly bugging your telephone right now.

JFK, the museum explains, was killed with a poison dart from a gas-powered umbrella in a coup d'état by Washington officials. Oswald was innocent and the man killed by Jack Ruby was an impostor and CIA-trained spy called Alex Hidel. "You must never forget the Warren report is a lie," the television kiosk insists. The Conspiracy Museum is the

overheated brainchild of R.B. Cutler, an 81-year-old Harvard-trained architect, Zen Buddhist, self-styled "assassinologist" and editor of the *Grassy Knoll Gazette*, who has spent nearly half a million dollars on the project. Using video screens, photographs and highly selective archive material, Mr Cutler sometimes attempts to back his claims with evidence, but more often employs the conspiracists' stock-in-trade: the bald, baffling and often barmy statement of the deeply unlikely. Several thousand people have paid \$7 each to absorb Mr Cutler's assertions since the museum opened in April.

Peddling conspiracy has become a lucrative business at a time when many Americans seem uncertain what to believe, and are thus increasingly prone to believe anything. In recent years the taste for such alarmist nonsense has reached new levels. The militia movement has long provided a fertile seedbed for home-

spun conspiracists, but in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing the theories have spun out of control. Tales of government plots to confiscate guns, black helicopters bearing UN troops intent on imposing a New World Order, concentration camps for millionaires and much more have spread with amazing speed through the more credulous regions of the American mind.

The most common speculation going the paramilitary rounds is that the federal Government planted the bomb in Oklahoma City to enable Congress to impose gun control and monitor the militias.

The Chinese whispers of conspiracy once relied on word of mouth and bar-room theorising, but the computer Internet grapevine has helped to make the transmission of fearful rumour virtually instantaneous and quite unrestrained. Log on to such bulletin boards as "The Patriotic Motherboard" and you find myths in

the making, sprouting and mutating on a daily basis.

While it flourishes most extravagantly on the militant fringe, the willing suspension of disbelief such ideas require has already infected mainstream culture. The Hollywood film-maker Oliver Stone, whose fantastic *JFK* set new standards in historical hysteria, is not alone in mining this rich seam of gullibility. A new film about the Black Panthers declares that the FBI conspired with the Mafia to flood America's black ghettos with cheap drugs.

Books, television programmes and films continue to pour out in ever-growing numbers, with an ever-looser grip on reality, offering quarter-baked hypotheses by the bushel. America's receptivity to new ideas is its glory and strength, but in recent times the admirable conviction that all views should be heard has somehow been corrupted

into the notion that every idea, however crackpot, is of equal validity. Freedom of speech has become freedom to fantasise with the expectation of being believed. In a broader sense, too, the popularity of the conspiracy theory reflects the deep distrust of officialdom now permeating much of America.

Last month, Ohio traffic police pulled over one Larry Harris, an outspoken white supremacist. In his car boot they discovered three vials of the bacterium that causes bubonic plague. Mr Harris offered a remarkable defence. The Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, he explained, was planning to attack the United States using battalions of germ-carrying rats and he needed the bacterium to research ways to stop him.

I, too, have a nasty suspicion that the paranoids are out to get me, for a fresh theory arrives with every post and e-mail.

Last week I received a letter from "The Commander", explaining that the "CIA obtained Supreme Court authority to conduct an unapparent remote totalitarian control verification. The multiple victims, with tampered dentistry, were originally victimized by Cold War CIA random social security number testings."

So there it is: the highest court in the land is in league with your dentist, and you cannot even trust your own molars.

# The craftsman's contract

The sheer skills of Uppark's restorers make any reservations about the decor's authenticity seem pedantic

When Uppark collapsed in a ball of fire on August 30th, 1989, I wondered whether the National Trust would ever have the will or the money to restore it. At one o'clock last Thursday, I had my answer. The house reopened and I was beaten through the door only by an elderly couple eager likewise to be first. The great house is back in business on its South Downs eyrie behind Portsmouth.

Uppark is more than a house restored. It is an argument won. After the fire, the building had only its outer and some inner walls standing. Not a ceiling survived. One of the most enjoyable — if not the grandest — of England's Georgian mansions was a sodden porridge of rubble and ash two metres deep. While the fire was still blazing, 90 per cent of the pictures and furniture were rescued from the main ground floor rooms. Firemen dashed into the flames to tear down fragments of wallpaper and fabric for eventual replication. But the house itself was left a ruin on a hill, a ghastly skull glaring out towards the Channel and the Isle of Wight.

Had Uppark been a book or a painting it would have been treated as irreparably lost. We are more indulgent towards buildings. Plenty dismissed the blackened shell as hopeless, as they dismissed the fire-ravaged rooms at Hampton Court and Windsor Castle. Old Man Fate works in many ways, they said, sometimes by decay and sometimes by catastrophe. We must not cheat him but build anew on the wreckage of his victims.

Thus the Portsmouth MP, David Martin, promptly called for the Uppark site to be flattened. It was, he said, no more than "the work of 17th-century yuppies". Some modern architects called, as at Windsor, for the house to be restored but with modern interiors. Even the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings dismissed a new Uppark as a fake. The society's Victorian precursor, William Morris, would have cried out against recreating such "monuments of a bygone art, created by bygone manners". Even the editor of *Country Life* wrote that the £20 million of

insurance money should have been used to buy an old building in need of attention elsewhere.

In the hands of pedants these arguments soon become gobbledegook. Who knows when repair becomes restoration, when reinstatement becomes recreation, when restitution becomes replication, when copy becomes fake? I may be restoring sensitively; you may be taking a liberty; he may be fabricating a sham. When told that all I can see of a medieval cathedral is actually Victorian reconstruction, I am disappointed but my appreciation is not ruined. These are strange emotions, but conservers must somehow come to terms with them.

The National Trust decided instantly to put Uppark back as it was the day before the fire. They decided to blot out the tragedy through the sheer creative adrenalin. Besides, the contractor's insurance could not be used for anything else. With so much of the contents saved and with surviving fragments of the decoration and fittings, the house could be born again. The skills existed. The job could be done.

Yet, as Heraclitus said, you cannot step into the same river twice and I

Simon Jenkins

was still not clear what exactly was to be reborn. Everything in life can be manufactured except the passage of time. The Trust's critics conceded that the body of Uppark could be restored, but not its soul. A metaphysical continuity had been breached that August day in 1989. What had evolved slowly over the centuries had ceased to be. A cultural pact between the present and the past had been broken.

The Trust reacts fiercely to such doubts. The walls were standing, it says. The contents were mostly saved. As for the decoration, 3,860 disburbs were filled with ash from measured grid squares of rubble, each fragment used to clone replacements. In concept, if not in scale, the operation was no different from any other restoration. Indeed it was more rigorous. In a normal restoration, colours, fabrics and carpets would be fresh. At Uppark, the ageing and "distressing" went to astonishing lengths. The plaster was analysed and remixed from original paste strengthened

with hair. If mistakes were found in the original woodwork, these were faithfully replicated. Lead paint was used with a special oxidising agent to speed ageing. Wallpaper was printed to match exactly the fading of sunlight on each patch of wall, including bright colours behind pictures and fittings.

Fabrics were not just distressed but were woven on 18th-century looms. The 1930s stitching of curtain repairs was repeated, right down to Lady Fetherstonhaugh's 20 rows to the inch. The half-burnt carpet in the saloon posed the problem of how worn should be the replacement for a missing threadbare section. The answer was to fade the new to the existing shades, to shave and trample the pile, but not to repeat the actual wear. Balthus was turned on a lathe but the stairs beneath them conceal dovetail joints, invisible to the naked eye. Only on the roof does a chimney pot tell its tale: "Margaret Thatcher resigned as I was making this" is inscribed on its side.

Yet deliberate clues are left everywhere. Charred fragments survive. Joints between old and new wallpaper are marked so as to be visible only close at hand. A part of the moulding round a door is left unpainted, its

serpent carving still charred, symbol of the marriage of old and new. Even the burnt bell pulls have been restituted only to the ravaged state they were in before the fire.

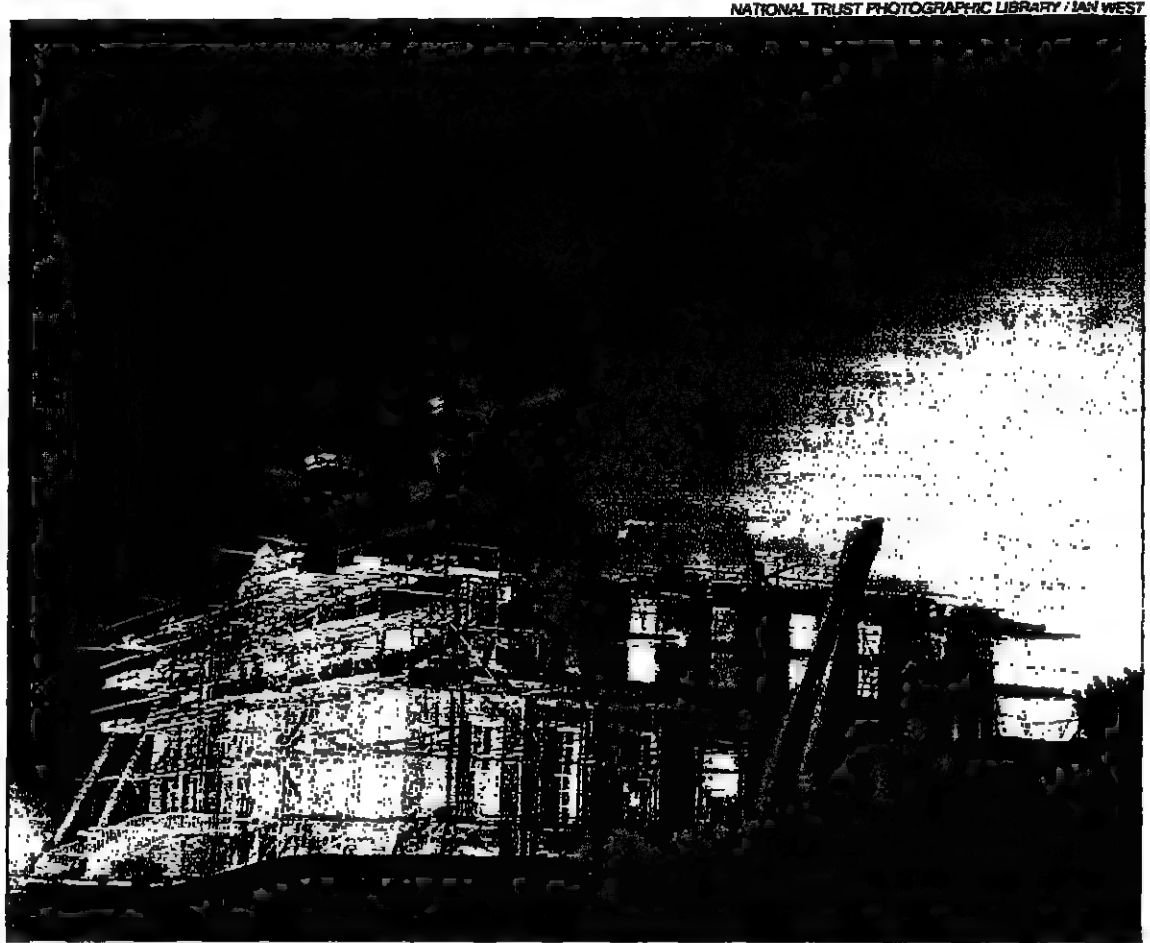
Much of this left me bemused: who exactly is saying what and to whom? I wonder what H.G. Wells, whose mother was housekeeper at Uppark, would have made of it. I am dubious of the virtue in fading new wallpaper to pretend that it is not new, when sooner or later it will have to be replaced with new wallpaper. This is not so much restoration as artifice in aid of optical illusion.

The history of Uppark, as of most large houses, is of steady updating of materials as well as style. I remember it ten years ago, a gloriously decrepit museum heavy with the dew of time and already in need of restoration. Its essence is still that of a museum. To this extent its molecules may have changed, but its "soul" is no different. The same devoted custodians watch over it, the same taste is served. Surely it would have made more sense to restore the 18th-century Uppark rather than its mid-20th century deterioration. This worried me until I saw last

night's superb BBC2 documentary on Uppark. The house emerged from the programme as a different creation from the long-lost residence of a Georgian grandee, his 20-year-old dairymaid wife or their various legatees. It was different even from the sparkling "as-new" restorations of buildings such as Hampton Court or Spencer House. It was a virtuoso monument to the British genius for craftsmanship.

The rescue of Uppark has been to today's masons and carvers, painters and plasterworkers, weavers and embroiderers what the great 1666 Florence flood was to fresco restorers. It is a dazzling one-off. The young men and women who flocked to save Uppark were infused with a mixture of talent and enthusiasm, of expertise triumphant over tragedy. Modern Uppark is as much theirs as anyone else's. They should be fed by name in the catalogue.

In a century's time Uppark will have regained its patina. Nobody will care about the joins of 1995, since they were not present to make it different. I would make a clean breast of the place, paint over the scars and consign the great fire of 1989 to the history books. Uppark is a museum of today as much as yesterday.



Uppark, August 1989: out of the fire has come a masterpiece of loving restoration

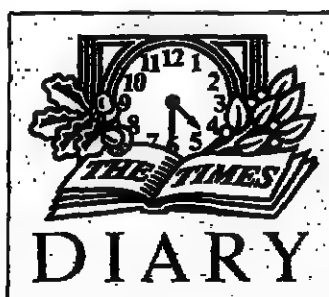
# Trout rout

THE PRINCE OF Wales could not have picked a more spectacular or secluded spot to relax in Ireland than Delphi Lodge in Co Mayo, where he is spending a day or two fishing. The Victorian shooting lodge built by the second Marquess of Sligo overlooks a loch and sits below towering mountains in a rain-swept valley: every fisherman's dream.

But Delphi Lodge has suffered. Its fish are not what they once were. Indeed so concerned is its owner Peter Mantle about the decline in wild fish stocks in western Ireland that he has become a leading light in a formidable lobbying organisation: Save Our Sea-trout (SOS).

Mantle's ire is directed at salmon farmers. The Prince will have been greeted by a 20lb stuffed salmon in the entrance hall and offered homemade mussels for breakfast. But over fine wine at supper, he will have been informed how fish farms and the parasitic lice that go with them have all but killed off the sea-trout.

The collapse of sea-trout stocks along the west coast has caused a parallel collapse in angling tour-



ism over the past four years," says Mantle. "Our livelihood and that of all who work for us is totally dependent on visiting fishermen."

A visit from a visiting royal fisherman, then, must be a boost.

## Last call

THE REVERENT atmosphere of the London's Brompton Oratory was shattered during the memorial service for Sir John Pope-Hennessy on Thursday by the shrill tones of a portable phone. One member of the congregation rudely roared from reverie pinpointed the source. "It

was definitely coming from Mrs Timothy Clifford's handbag."

The unfortunate wife of the director of the National Galleries of Scotland rummaged in her handbag to stifle the sound, only to hear it start ringing again a few minutes later. "I think Sir John might have been trying to ring through," explains the congregant.

South Africans will soon be donning the rugby shirts rejected by the England team because they ran pink in the wash. Through his company Cotton Traders, the former England prop Fran Cotton is donating the faulty batch of some 300 shirts to Rob Andrew's appeal for rugged kit for South African townships.

## Flat spin

SHERGAR will be running again tonight in the Derby. The build up to the first Saturday Derby next week gets under way at Epsom racecourse with its summer ball, where a phantom race will be staged, pitting past winners against each other. Sea-Bird, Nijinsky, Mill Reef and even Sir Ivor will be in the line up alongside Shergar and other greats. Lester Piggott is riding five horses in the

race. Betting will be heavy.

"Three separate commentaries have been made, each with a different outcome," says Edward Gillespie, managing director of United Racecourses. "But not even the commentator knows which version we will choose on the night."

## Shell shock

THE NEW sound of the cricketing summer looks likely to be the honk



"They all bought their houses in the 1980s"

of the conch. MCC stewards tried to ban it last week from Lord's but submitted to the popular will.

At the final Texaco Trophy match last week, a West Indies supporter greeted every wicket or mighty hit — from either side — with a blast on a huge shell. He now writes, under the name of the Conch Shell Man, to tell me of his own triumph. He was pulled out of the crowd by policemen after a complaint from stewards, and asked to stop the bugling.

I decided that the only way I was going to get out of this was to gamble and get the support of the crowd," he writes. "So from behind the stand I shouted: 'Should I keep on blowing my conch shell?' The answer was a big 'Yes'. Without waiting for an answer from my acusers I retook my seat to resounding cheers from the supporters."

## He's an elle

STEPHEN Dorrell, the Heritage Minister, will no longer have any excuse to confuse the gender of France's foremost film actress. This morning he will have received by first-class post, a copy of the only English language biography of her life, *La Merveille: A Biography of Jeanne Moreau*.



Grande dame: Jeanne Moreau in Louis Malle's *Les Amants*

The author, Marianne Gray, dismayed by the minister's gaffe in Cannes recently, when he referred to the redoubtable grande dame of French cinema (who is also the president of the Cannes festival jury) as "a distinguished Frenchman", decided to educate him. "I have popped my book in the post with a note saying 'a little light reading for you'," she says sternly. "Although I expect all Moreau herself would have done would have been to have given a throaty chuck-

le and to order another glass of champagne."

The Korean football authorities have produced a brochure as part of their campaign to host the 2002 World Cup, but His Royal Highness Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah's words lose a little in translation: "Korea has an unenviable record in the World Cup."

P.H.S





## HOME SHOTS OVER BOSNIA

Contending views require a proper prism of humility

Even on a day of mixed signals, the first Bosnian Serb hints at release of the UN hostages will reinforce the conviction of the British and French Governments that mauling their fists was the right response to provocation. Yet their decision to reinforce the UN military presence in Bosnia still invites the question from many among their voters: to what end? The mission, says John Major, is unchanged since 1992: the protection of innocent civilians, and the strategic imperative of preventing a wider war. They must stay, says Jacques Chirac, because "the security of Europe is at stake" and because France will not accept "the return of ethnic hatred and barbarity to this continent".

What nonsense, reply those for whom the Balkans have never been worth the life of grenadiers. Sceptics of the Anglo-French approach see an Establishment united only in its myopic inability to recognise its original error of attempting to interpose foreign troops in the first place. External intervention in this "local war" has merely postponed, at the cost of more deaths, "the inevitable endgame". Principles are irrelevant, even dangerous: civilised conduct cannot be imposed, and it is merely arrogant to attempt to hold inter-communal hatreds in check. No British interest is at stake, not even if the war widens, and not one British life is worth risking in this "senseless escapade on the United Nations' behalf".

An elegant version of this case was put on the opposite page this week by our columnist Simon Jenkins. Reiterating his conviction that "the sooner we get out the less will be the damage to Nato and the UN", he berated a "belligerent and unrealistic press, including *The Times*, for blinding politicians to this self-evident truth."

Many discordant perceptions of battles past, and battles yet to come, compete for attention in this crucible of disorder. Historical parallels are invoked: with Sarajevo in 1914, "the shot that echoed round the world"; with the failure of international nerve when Italy invaded Abyssinia in the 1930s and the ensuing collapse of the League of Nations; with the Vietnamese "quagmire". Then there are the geopolitical contrasts: what marks out Bosnia, the critics ask, from African wars of equal savagery, in Sudan or Liberia, where the West has wisely not even contemplated intervention?

Each case throws up its counter-case; each contains some particle of truth; and each provides grist for further argument. Sarajevo 1914 is sometimes cited as justification for the current strategy of containment. But

sceptics contend that in 1914 the rival alliances of outside powers converted a single incident into a world war; thus they call for swift retreat from a Balkan morass.

There is no denying that miscalculations and confused lines of command have come close to robbing the UN and Nato of all credibility in former Yugoslavia. The UN's rules of engagement have forced highly trained soldiers to play grim games of blind man's buff. In southern Europe, the doctrine of collective security that sustained the West for 50 years has come close to collapsing in transatlantic recrimination. Even if, as is essential, military means are now better matched to ends, there will be further frustrations before the Bosnian Serbs finally realise that holding out against a settlement means nothing but impoverished isolation.

Rarely in modern history has so much Western credit been invested in a conflict where the trends are so hard to disentangle. Yet in all its complexity, there is a moral, political and strategic case which outweighs the arguments for leaving the war to run its course and justifies the risk to soldiers' lives. Those soldiers have saved thousands, and will continue to do so: critics who argue that these civilians have merely been "fattened up for slaughter" should consider that their chosen course of retreat would guarantee the slaughterers' advance. The principle that borders should not be altered by force or people driven from their homes is elementary to international law and not lightly to be abandoned. Finally there is real and present danger to Western Europe in a widening of conflict where the plates of old European, Slav, Ottoman and Asian rivalries meet.

Moreover, bleak as the foreground is, containment has had its successes. Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats are no longer killing each other; the Bosnian Serbs have lost their offensive élan; their erstwhile backers in Belgrade are tiring of war and the embryo of a compromise grows in Croatia.

All attempts to see what the Balkans will look like five or ten years ahead must be through the prism of a proper humility. To stay the course until the Bosnian Serbs are compelled to deal is unappealing to the leaders who meet in Paris today; but they know that to be forced to admit failure would still be worse. Fighting would again break out between Serbia and Croatia. A spark in Macedonia could set Greek against Turk and an Afghan-style proxy war in Bosnia is all too possible, with America and Russia once again on opposing sides. Today's risks seem minor by comparison.

## HOME TRUTHS

Major must accept blame for the boom and bust in housing

Millions of homeowners and traditional Tory voters are miserable and angry. In the case of a small but significant minority, they are also financially ruined. Should they be blaming John Major or Margaret Thatcher or Nigel Lawson? Or do they have no one to blame but themselves, as the Prime Minister controversially implied this week?

The answer, unhappily for the Tories and their disgruntled former supporters, is all of the above. Individuals must, as Mr Major suggested, ultimately stand responsible for the consequences of their own financial decisions. Nevertheless it is becoming the Prime Minister to "blame everyone but himself for the mistakes that have caused so much hardship", as Gordon Brown said.

Nobody who looks at the record of economic mismanagement in Britain from 1987 onwards could possibly deny that the Government's actions exacerbated the swings in the housing cycle. There were Nigel Lawson's decisions to cut British interest rates to shadow the German mark; his blindness to the macroeconomic impact of excessive mortgage borrowing; his tax cuts in the 1988 Budget and, to cap it all, the egregious "last chance" he offered to thousands of hapless young borrowers to receive double-tax relief.

But for all the economic mismanagement in the boom phase of the cycle, even worse mistakes were made on the way down, a period when Mr Major was completely in

charge. Much of the misery in the housing market followed directly from his most fundamental mistake — the decision to enter the ERM in October 1990. Mr Major's ERM obsession kept interest rates too high for far too long and created a deep recession. That recession produced the hole in the public finances which had to be closed by raising taxes and withdrawing mortgage relief.

To make matters worse, ministers then piled on the agony, especially for poorer homeowners, with measures that might have made sense from a long-term perspective, but proved extremely ill-timed. Sharp cuts in mortgage tax relief, for example, would have been welcome in the 1980s when they would have helped to moderate the house price boom. But in the 1990s they have added to the instability in housing. This year's social security reforms have rightly proved even more contentious; they will damage confidence and lock many out of home ownership completely in return for negligible gains to the Treasury.

Mr Major is right to argue that a fall in house prices was inevitable after the speculative excesses of the 1980s and that overpriced housing was a social evil. But if he wants people to take his message seriously, he would do well to admit that government actions made both the boom and the bust much worse. Britain is still waiting for a word of apology for the Government's many economic blunders.

## NOT SO FAST

British railways are gathering speed — but slowly

Sensing perhaps the moderate nature of its achievement, British Rail celebrated the InterCity 225 breaking the British passenger train speed record yesterday by dispensing not champagne, but the less heady Bucks Fizz, to those who undertook the voyage. Despite being laden down with journalists, experts, British Rail executives and — for the sake of the stipulations of the record books — a single paying passenger, the train reached the dizzy velocity of 154 mph on its East Coast journey. Marco Pierre White was on hand to provide sustenance.

The Guinness Book of Records is already full of phoney achievements. This one has a particularly bathetic touch: 154mph is a speed which many top-of-the-range cars could manage with a foot pressed hard on the accelerator. Even in railway terms, it is but a modest advance. We have gathered speed since the first regular passenger train between Stockton and Darlington travelled at 15mph in 1825, and the *Mallard* steam locomotive managed 125mph on the same stretch of track between Grantham and Peterborough in 1938. France's TGV has reached 320mph and regularly cruises at

186mph, as do Eurostar trains — once on the other side, that is.

The point of yesterday's adventure was to demonstrate that the constituent parts of the service can still work together, despite negative publicity about disagreements between Railtrack and the operating services. It was also intended to glamorise the image of the railways ahead of the sell-off, and to lodge the prime East Coast stretch in the minds of both potential investors and the Government. Whitehall, even after the sell-off, is likely to remain responsible for the lion's share of major investment needed to improve running times.

Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary who was along for the ride, gamely claimed that the journey was a triumph for British train technology. But what really counts are not one-off achievements but the general performance of trains on the timetable runs. For the foreseeable future, there is about as much chance of the average passenger experiencing the exhilarating whoosh of yesterday's journey as there is of them encountering Mr White serving their sandwiches in the buffet car.

## Laying blame for house price spiral

From Mr Walter Harris

Sir, Mr Major may have been unwise to draw attention to the "crazy housing boom" of the 1980s in which his Government played a part (report, June 2) but he appears to have missed the opportunity of mentioning a factor which considerably reduced his liability.

In the 1960s, 70 per cent of housing was rented: who would have thought then of buying a flat? In fact no building society would offer a mortgage for part of a building.

Harold Wilson's Government put a stop to this with its infamous Rent Acts in 1964 and 1967 which killed the rented sector, and by the 1980s it was practically impossible to rent an apartment except to companies or for short-term holidays. The housing boom, therefore, was partly the result of a necessity. How else was one to obtain accommodation?

Admittedly the Conservative Government loosened the financial strings for purchasing, but it did not have the pluck to reverse the Rent Acts until 1988. It is conceivable that had this been effected earlier the mad rush might never have taken place.

Yours etc,  
WALTER HARRIS  
(Managing Director),  
The Kensington Hotel Group,  
Kensington House,  
38 Emperor's Gate, SW7.  
June 2.

From Mr J. B. MacGill

Sir, In March 1988 the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, announced that as from August 1 only one income per house would be entitled to tax relief on mortgage interest. Between those dates every unmarried couple who could find a house or flat to buy with tax relief on two incomes sought to do so — and the price of the houses rose rapidly to meet this extra demand and the size of mortgage these two incomes could obtain with double tax relief.

As soon as August 1 passed house prices had to fall to the level which two incomes, but only one with tax relief, could afford, and they did.

Indeed they had to fall further until first-time buyers regained sufficient confidence in the value of a house to venture into the housing market — because without first-time buyers the market cannot move. This time is now approaching and the market will begin to pick up again, but with only small cost-of-living pay increases it will be some time before the two-income couples with one tax relief can reach the mortgage ability of the pre-March 1988 unmarried couple with double tax relief.

Of course, many of those couples who rushed to buy a house between March and August of 1988 later found that they did not really want to live together after all and as one of them alone could not afford the mortgage these homes have been repossessed.

Yours faithfully,  
J. B. MACGILL,  
The Wilderness,  
Ascot, Berkshire.  
June 2.

## Drug legalisation

From Dr George Yousef

Sir, I would like to echo the concerns of Dr R. W. K. Reeves (letter, May 26) with respect to the prolific use of cannabis while other drugs with much more devastating impact are freely available, eg, alcohol.

Amphetamine ("speed") is illegal in this country. However, the plant qat has an active component similar in its chemical structure to amphetamine and also in its effect. The chewing of qat is a social tradition in East Africa and the Arabian peninsula.

Unlike cannabis, amphetamine and heroin, qat can be purchased legally in the major European capitals. This is causing growing concern in London, where increasingly large Somali refugee communities reside.

Patients have been treated in this hospital for psychotic episodes after consumption of qat. It is important that this increasing problem is not ignored.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE YOUSEF  
(Honorary Clinical Research Fellow,  
Hawthorn/Willow Ward,  
Intensive Care Unit,  
Park Royal Centre for Mental Health,  
Acton Lane, NW10.  
May 30.

## Road safety

From Professor R. W. Porter

Sir, A 4 per cent reduction in the number of deaths on Britain's roads last year is good news (News in Brief, June 1) but it should not be assumed that our roads are safer. Reduced mortality is matched by a 3 per cent rise in those who survive with serious injuries.

Skilled paramedics speedily transport the seriously injured to increasingly efficient trauma units. This probably accounts for the better figures, and it is an illusion that our roads are getting safer.

Yours sincerely,  
R. W. PORTER,  
University of Aberdeen,  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery,  
Polwarth Building,  
Foresterhill, Aberdeen.  
June 1.

## Planners' eyesores in the Highlands

From Mr Kenneth H. Ross

Sir, Mr Parris is only too right (article, May 29) in his denunciation of the dereliction made of the Highlands, in less than half a lifetime, by building and civil engineering. It is not so easy to say who is to blame.

The cost of importing materials from the South, the modest total of developments giving few economies of scale, the narrow tax base and the low incomes all put pressure on the local authorities, not only as planning bodies but as customers for housing, schools, roads depots and offices, to accept the lowest-cost solution, rather than see nothing built, or accept delay.

That, however, does not explain all the ugliness. Very often the harm is done not simply by the building but by the prominence of the site. I know of a once sublime Highland village which, to my eye, has been devastated in its appearance more by a single cottage and garage, which resemble two small ammunition stores, than by the startling offensiveness of an industrial development down at the harbour, which has at least the justification of giving employment.

"Sometimes outsiders notice things to which those who live with them have become blind," writes Mr Parris. Quite so. In half a century of travelling the Highlands I have met only lowland Scots, and plenty of Englishmen and foreigners, who could even see, let alone understand, what it is that is being lost.

Yours faithfully,  
KENNETH H. ROSS,  
Wellbank Mains Farm,  
Wellbank, Angus.  
June 1.

From Mr Simon Holder

Sir, How I agree with Matthew Parris's article on public blights. Long after MPs' laundry (public and private) has been washed, bleached and ironed will such eyesores as Portree still cast a long shadow over the very joy of life. Lushpish, concrete minds build lushpish, concrete buildings, with matching coldness and colour.

## Calculators in schools

From Mr James Glover

Sir, The study ordered by government education advisers on the use of calculators (report, May 23, letters, May 29) is to be welcomed and I hope that in carrying it out the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority will seek guidance from those who currently teach mathematics without calculators as well as those who do.

I have no doubt that the use of calculators in primary schools has an extremely debilitating effect on the development of numerical comprehension, enjoyment and skill.

As the head of department in an independent school I am responsible for mathematics from 4½ to 18 years. We do not allow calculators in the primary section, nor in the senior school until one year prior to GCSE. At the 16+ stage about one quarter of our pupils obtain a grade A at Additional Mathematics, having sat GCSE a year early, and this is at a school with no entrance examination requirements.

Everybody is provided with a natural calculator at birth which, when properly trained and put to use, produces a bright, alert mind. The experience of working mentally with numbers, can be a great delight.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES GLOVER  
(Head of Mathematics),  
St James Independent School,  
61 Eccleston Square, SW1.  
June 1.

## Defence savings

From Mr G. J. Williams

Sir, Professor Sir Hermann Bondi (letter, May 31) advocates the appointment of a project manager with "cradle-to-grave" responsibility for defence projects as a means of combating cost and time over-runs.

I was one such project manager appointed in 1976, during Professor Bondi's tenure as Chief Scientific Adviser at the Ministry of Defence, with the responsibility for designing and developing a rocket motor for a light anti-tank weapon. As he advocates, my team remained largely unchanged throughout the project and career moves and promotions were undoubtedly blocked in its higher interests.

The weapon concerned was successfully introduced into service but unfortunately privatisation and the shrinkage of the defence industry en-

## Constituency quotas

From Mr Bernard Black

Sir, Mr Peter Gilbert's suggestion of doubling the size of constituencies (letter, June 1) so that there could be one male and one female MP for each, far from being more democratic, would compound the felony of the "first-past-the-post" system by making our "party list of one" for each single-member seat into a "party list of two" for each two-member seat. Perish the thought.

What is required is a smaller number of larger but moderately sized multi-member constituencies returning on average five MPs, each of whom would have received a quota of the votes required to be one of those

With such depressing environments, it's no surprise that crime rates are high.

We British have been beaten into submission by waves of towering grey, and this endless visual violence has so brutalised and numbed us that we no longer raise a squeak in defiance of the ruthless deceptions practised by property developers and planners with no vision, care or eye for beauty. In all too many cases plans are submitted in public for people to agree on, then changed as the building goes up, too late for redress. Why do we allow them to get away with it?

Yes, let us hound these people, insult them noisily in reply to their insulting us by silent stealth. Planners should listen to those they are supposedly representing, in the same way that now even some unions are beginning to do. Planners do harm — to the soul, to the eye and to the intellect. Beauty may, indeed, be in the eye of the beholder, but ugliness is in the eye of everyone.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON HOLDER,  
66 Honeywell Road, Battersea, SW11.  
June 1.

From Mr T. A. Backhouse

Sir, I lived for some years in a once-delightful Berkshire market town of mainly two-storey red brick and clay tile construction — nothing of outstanding architectural merit but the whole a pleasing variety within an overall unity. Until, that is, the late 1960s when a five-storey, drab, grey, concrete block of a telephone exchange was plunked down in the centre of the town with, I assume, that exemption from planning permission which was awarded to the major utilities.

The town, of course, is stuck with this horror long after the current crop of popular political scandals has been forgotten.

Yours faithfully,  
TONY BACKHOUSE,  
St Margaret's Cottage,  
Polgoath, Cornwall.

## Training engineers

From Professor Sir Graham Hills

Sir, The Master of Churchill College (letter, May 29) states that Cambridge has substituted a four-year course for the previous three years the better to educate and train British engineers. However, this privileged position for Cambridge will still be inadequate.

A better and more general solution is to hand if we would accept that for most undergraduates a sounder basis for any career is a broadly-based general first-degree programme on which intending specialists can then, at graduate school level, build a thoroughly professional training up to European standards. This, after all, is the American model, which satisfies a high proportion of their graduates whilst also producing specialists, particularly engineers, of the highest ability.

It seems foolish to trap so many bright young people into early specialisms which must wait until an early opportunity, leaving the small but vital remainder to be less than properly trained. The excessive national cost of educating so many premature specialists could be better deployed in the subsequent training of dedicated specialists, especially technologists, of whom there still remains a shortage. We could then look Europe in the eye.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM HILLS,  
Sunnyside of Threehwood,  
Laigh Threehwood, Beith, Ayrshire.  
May 29.

sure that the whole team was made redundant with little or no prospect for any future employment.

Professor Bondi suggests a "double promotion" as a reward for success but in my view, if his policy is to succeed in attracting project staff of the right calibre prepared to take such long-term career risks, then suitable levels of remuneration must be offered them. At present their pay is on the level of low-risk administrative civil servants.

Unfortunately project scientists and engineers have always been poorly rewarded by Government and there is very little prospect of this changing in the current economic climate.

Yours faithfully,  
G. J. WILLIAMS,  
Plum Tree Cottage,  
The College,  
Marsh Gibbon, Bicester, Oxfordshire.  
June 1.

elected. In each such constituency we the voters would have a still single but transferable vote. That would put the power where it properly belongs in any democracy worthy of the name — with the people.

Yours faithfully,  
BERNARD BLACK  
(Head of Political Studies),  
St John's College,  
Grove Road South,  
Southsea, Hampshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 32

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be forwarded to 01753 724116

## The unimportance of being a statue

From Mr Ken Rowat

Sir, Those intending to honour the genius of Oscar Wilde (letter, May 29) will be well supported, as later correspondence (May 29) confirms, but while the centenary of the writer's persecution should certainly be marked in some way, I believe that the erection of a statue will lead to regret and recrimination.

The days of great, even good, portrait statues are long past; the creative climate of our age no longer allows the possibility of any sculptor producing a work in the idiom that does not look derivative, quirky or just dull; and the minefield of contemporary non or semi-figurative sculpture is far too risky for those seeking a memorial that will not become an embarrassing eyesore within a decade or two, however informed the commissioning body may seem.

Something much more lively and life-enhancing than an earnest monument would surely be more appropriate. Why not seek to extend the sponsorship and establish an annual Wilde memorial prize for the wittiest book, play or artefact of the year?

Yours faithfully,  
KEN ROWAT,  
7 George Street, Sherborne, Dorset.  
May 29.

From Mr Leslie Craven

Sir, Oscar has already written his own inscription (letter 1893) for a statue: "Even the disciple has his uses. He stands behind one's throne, and at the moment of one's triumph whispers in one's ear that, after all, one is immortal."

Yours sincerely,  
LESLIE CRAVEN,  
42 Orsett Terrace,  
Woodford Green, Essex.  
May 30.

## Cosmetic surgery

From the Reverend Jonathan Sinclair Carey

Sir, Just as Shirley Conran (report, May 31) proudly reveals the results of her cosmetic surgery, so must I get something off my chest too: a deep concern for her attitude when she states: "If women want or need such surgery they should just go for it."

Having been a visiting fellow in a large New York City plastic surgery department (as the first bio-ethicist so appointed in the USA), I have seen many breast augmentations and reductions performed, as well as many other types of cosmetic procedures from gender re-identification to full facelifts (on men and women alike). What astonished me more than some of the results — both good and bad — was the lack of serious ethical reflection about cosmetic surgery, by patient and surgeon alike.

Cosmetic surgery may indeed assist many people, but it should never be approached with a "just go for it" attitude. That attitude, in my opinion, is morally bankrupt and not very attractive.

Yours sincerely,  
JONATHAN SINCLAIR CAREY,  
Inns of Court School of Law,  
39 Eagle Street, WC1.  
May 31.

## Out to grass

From Mr Michael Saxby

Sir, Keeping my lawns neatly trimmed (report May 27; letter, June 1) I have several automatic, silent, pollution-free mowers which are fuelled by the grass they cut.

They are called rabbits. (For some reason my garden does not produce many flowers.)

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL SAXBY,  
Stowmarket Road,  
Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.  
May 27.

## Marital bliss

From Mr Christopher Harvey

Sir, When my wife was asked by our daughter for her thoughts on the attributes of a good husband she suggested she chose a man who made her laugh and who respected his mother.

What qualities, can I now tell our son, make a good wife?

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER HARVEY,  
Auckland,  
Blackboys, Uckfield, East Sussex.  
May 28.

## Solomons judgment

From Mr E. J. Corrin

Sir, Success in export markets requires quality products and imaginative marketing. Members of the Women's Institute in Leyburn, North Yorkshire, are thus to be congratulated on achieving sales of their jams and chutneys in a dispensary in Honiara in the Solomon Islands, all neatly marked with their makers' names: a fact which I discovered on a recent visit to Guadalcanal.

Yours faithfully,  
E. J. CORRIN,  
3 High Street,  
Yardley Gobion,  
Towcester, Northamptonshire.







## OBITUARIES

## SIR FRANCIS SANDILANDS

Sir Francis Sandilands, CBE, chairman of Commercial Union Assurance, 1972-83, died on May 29 aged 81. He was born on December 11, 1913.

OF RESPECTABLE and donnish appearance, casually dressed and light of build, rather than being cast in the more familiar besuited, square-jawed mould of the city magnate, Francis Sandilands was, nevertheless, one of the few names in the insurance industry of his period to become widely known. His career was one of substantial achievement, notwithstanding the problems Commercial Union found itself in during the mid-1980s after his departure as chairman.

Ironically, CU's ill-starred venture into the American market in this period was to prove its salvation later, once when recession came to Britain he company had already learnt its lesson and retrenched, thus avoiding the problems which hit many of its competitors, and providing a source of CU's present strength.

Sandilands' reputation rested on his performance in the 1970s, in such services as his chairmanship of the Government Committee of Inquiry into Inflation and Company Accounts whose report became known simply as the Sandilands report. Beyond this, through his insistence that the victims of the 1974-75 strike be compensated, Sandilands cut a figure of integrity.

Francis Edwin Prescott Sandilands was the son of a Royal Marines officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Prescott Sandilands, and his wife Gladys. He was educated at Eton and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge (of which he was later to become an honorary fellow), where he read classics and law. He decided not to follow his father into the Marines. In fact, he would have liked to read for the Bar. But a private income was required for such a course in those days and his family's circumstances were relatively modest. Since he needed an immediate income and wanted, in addition, to seek his fortune abroad, he took the somewhat unusual step for a university graduate at the time of going into insurance. In the event, with war making out before he had got fairly embarked on this career, it was oldiering and not insurance that was to take him abroad. In the Army he became a lieutenant-colonel, as his father had been in the Royal Marines — though the Marine rank was senior to the military one.



From 1939 to 1945 Sandilands served with the Royal Scots Fusiliers and then on the General Staff in the United Kingdom and, after D-Day, during the North West Europe campaign, and was mentioned in dispatches. In the Army, as was later to prove the case in insurance, he was staff officer rather than field command material.

His choice of insurance as a career soon paid off. Most men of his background would have gone to Lloyd's. In composite insurance and at Commercial Union, Cambridge scholars were rare fish indeed. But Sandilands made his mark when he was chosen as amanuensis to the general manager, Sir John Makins, a rough diamond with whom the board found it difficult to communicate but with whom Sandilands established a good rapport. He accompanied Makins on a world tour, reporting back to the board. His reports impressed his

superiors and he began to rise, becoming Commercial Union's general manager in 1958 and chairman in 1972.

Sandilands established a reputation for probity, social concern and even outspokenness. In manner he was quiet and almost withdrawn, not a man to dominate a board with a stentorian voice or with a rush of ideas, although with the latter he was abundantly equipped. Under his stewardship Commercial Union increased its capital base as part of a strategy of long-term expansion, and in doing so developed a reputation as one of the most progressive and outspoken member companies of the insurance industry.

Sandilands was president of the British Insurance Association between 1965 and 1967 at a time when the impending collapse of many cut-rate companies threatened to tarnish the

name of the entire insurance community. Some questioned the admission to the BIA of the Vehicle & General Group, which was then on the verge of collapse. However, Sandilands led the rescue of that company's business and went on to tackle the problems of several other companies which were teetering on the brink of disaster.

As chairman of a leading investment institution he was ubiquitous in the City, becoming a director of, among others, ICI, the construction company Trafalgar House and the merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson.

Whitehall turned to him to chair the inquiry into Inflation and Company Accounts which reported in 1974 and 1975. This proposed that historic cost accounting, the basis of traditional financial reporting, be set aside, in the teeth of opposition from accountants both in this country and in the United States.

Sandilands suggested a new system, called current cost accounting. This was in itself regarded at the time as perhaps the single most comprehensive reform of financial reporting since Florentine merchants laid the foundations of historic cost accounting in the 14th century, though its immense complexity militated against its effectiveness and it never came into general use. Sandilands next took up the chairmanship of the City's Committee on Invisible Exports, of which he was a founder.

He was appointed CBE in 1967 and knighted in 1976. An austere and sometimes aloof man, he nonetheless gave greatly of himself in public as in business life, remaining chairman of Commercial Union until his 70th year.

Outside insurance he had a passionate interest in the arts. Indeed, during his time at Commercial Union the company had supported such events as Wagner's Ring at Covent Garden. Sandilands was a trustee of the British Museum, 1977-85, and of the Royal Opera House, 1974-86 (chairman of the trustees, 1980-84). He was also a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission, 1980-85, of the British Overseas Trade Board, 1976-83, and of the Advisory Committee, Queen's Award to Industry, 1976-83.

From 1973 to 1981 he was Treasurer of University College London, which made him an honorary fellow, and in 1974 he was appointed a Commandeur de l'Ordre de la Couronne of Belgium. Francis Sandilands is survived by his wife Gill, whom he married in 1939, and by their two sons.

## NATHAN RUBIN

Nathan Rubin, Jewish educational administrator and secretary of the United Synagogue, died on May 20 aged 74. He was born on April 10, 1921.

NATHAN RUBIN was one of Anglo-Jewry's most able administrators, rebuilding the community's religious educational network after the devastation of the Second World War. His most lasting achievement was the building of a new centrally located secondary school to replace the old Jews' Free School in the East End of London, which had become yet another bomb-site.

Nat Rubin's five years of tortuous negotiations, with recourse to the courts and the Privy Council, secured the site in Camden Town. Opposition came not only from rival bids and the complications of the site, but also from the former managers of the old Jews' Free School. With the exception of Edmund de Rothschild, they felt that the reasons for separate education no longer applied. Jewish children were now able to obtain a full education at local authority schools which did not seek to convert them to Christianity.

The ultra-Orthodox Jewish schools of the Jewish Second Step School Movement, founded by Rabbi Dr Solomon Schonfeld, were also opposed on religious grounds. This was going to be a mixed sex school and it might attract their own pupils away from strict observance.

For Rubin the school, which opened in two stages — as a secondary modern in 1958 and as a 1,500-pupil comprehensive in the mid-1960s — was always his baby. His experience led to his advising on the setting up of practically every subsequent Jewish school.



Nat Rubin got his initial experience by working with the old London County Council after coming out of the RAF. His own school was St George's Central School in the East End. He was interested in commercial organisation and gave evening lectures on secretarial practice.

At County Hall he happened to meet the then Chief Rabbi, Dr (later Sir) Israel Brodie and they talked about educational finance. In London the extra-curricular Jewish educational system was provided by the large United Synagogue body through its educational branch, the London Board of Jewish Religious Education, on the premises of its constituent synagogues.

The board was reorganising itself in the face of the postwar bulge in the birthrate and the new opportunities to establish voluntary aided schools. Rubin was invited to meet the honorary officers of the London board and soon realised that they had no idea of the intricate legal requirements of the 1944 Education Act. They also realised their ignorance and appointed him

secretary of the board, a post he held from 1950 to 1968.

At the same time as acting as midwife to the new Jews' Free School and assisting other voluntary aided schools, Rubin dealt with the expanding needs of a "Sunday school" education, which was coupled, in the case of serious students, with after-school sessions. The postwar bulge in the birthrate meant that numbers rose in the 1950s and 1960s to 15,000 pupils at a hundred centres employing 450 teachers.

Rubin also helped to organise the delivery of a kosher school meals service to 4,000 London school pupils at 25 centres.

Asked to take over as chief executive — or secretary in those days — of the United Synagogue itself on the retirement of the incumbent, he accepted on condition that he could retain his educational interests. He was secretary from 1968 until his retirement in 1983 and easily digested a mixed bag of portfolios, covering welfare, construction for new communities, chaplaincy, burial, religious arbitration and the office of the chief rabbi.

His knowledge and abilities were impressive, as was his bulk. Disagreements with him could be violent as he was passionate in expressing his beliefs. But he admitted that he finally learnt to let go of his deeply held principles, that "there are only two points of view — mine and the wrong one". He was, in fact, a skilled negotiator who inspired enormous trust and was often called upon to help Jewish communities around the country to resolve their organisational problems.

He died after a wife suffered a stroke while they were on holiday in Guernsey. He is survived by her, his son and daughter.

## PROFESSOR JOHN NICHOLSON

Professor John Nicholson, research council administrator and Russian linguist, died from cancer in Kingston, Ontario, on May 1 aged 65. He was born in Peasehaven, Sussex, on May 8, 1929.



JOHN NICHOLSON made an outstanding contribution to the study of Russian semantics, and combined that comparatively narrow field of scholarship with polymath instincts. The complexities of contemporary Russian politics occupied his thoughts as much as Russian word stress.

His French was also so good that when in the early 1970s difficulties arose in the French department of McGill University, Montreal, Nicholson was drafted in to chair that department and for one year he ran the French and Russian departments in tandem. He also administered a massive budget for research amounting to some \$55 million annually.

This latter responsibility he shouldered in 1978 when he became the founding executive director of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) in Ottawa — the body which administered government grants to Canadian academics. It was a post which made him the most influential figure in non-scientific research in Canada.

Nicholson was essentially a practical phonetician of the Daniel Jones school, although he never studied under him. Jones had founded the first department of phonetics in Britain, at University College London, in the early part of the century.

Like him, Nicholson had the phonetician's objectivity and empiricism. Abstract, unverifiable theorising did not attract him. It was these qualities which placed him firmly in the British tradition of linguistics, although most of his life he worked abroad.

John Greer Nicholson was

the son of a British father with American citizenship. He was educated at Waterloo-cum-Seaford Grammar School, Crosby, where he had been evacuated during the war. He went up to Queens' College, Cambridge, in 1949, initially to read French and German though these he quickly swapped for Russian.

After graduating, he taught at the Joint Services School for Linguists, attached to the University of London, training Army officer cadets and Royal Navy midshipmen to be Russian interpreters. The particular Russian accent which he taught was not approved of by the Russian émigré community in London, who found it "Soviet" and crude. But it was an authentic contemporary accent, which Nicholson had acquired as a boy from Soviet Russian travelmen in the Liverpool docks. He was realistic enough to regard it as more useful for those he was training to be able to liaise with the Soviet Communist military and civil hierarchy rather than to be blessed with the grand but old-fashioned Tsarist times.

In 1954 he moved to Munich, where he worked as a political journalist at the Insti-

tute for the Study of the USSR — hence his interest in Russian politics. Three years later he settled in Montreal as the editor and later head of the Russian section in the international service of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. There followed two years as assistant professor of Russian at McMaster University, Hamilton, and after that at McGill, where he chaired the newly created department of Russian and Slavonic Studies. In 1965 he was promoted to a full professorship.

Of his published works, Nicholson's revised thesis, published in 1968 under the title *Russian Normative Stress Notation* was the best received. A description and critique of all known printed sources for the study of Russian word stress, including evidence from 18th and 19th-century Russian syllabotonic poetry, it became a standard work.

After his term with the SSHRC ended in 1983, Nicholson embarked on a series of projects. In 1987 he gave a year's course on the comparative semantics of literary and spoken Russian and English under the Fulbright scheme at the Maurice Thorez Institute of Foreign Languages in Moscow. Back in Canada, he worked on a possible study of Lenin's use of Russian, though his research in this area was never completed. As a student of Russian politics, he lectured and wrote on Gorbachev and his associates. He maintained his contacts with the British university world, holding a visiting professorship at Oxford, 1971-72, and returning to Cambridge in the late 1980s as a guest lecturer. For the past 25 years he had suffered from cancer, but he never let it affect his work.

He is survived by his wife, Monique Forthomme Nicholson, an authority on Roman Britain and Celtic Christianity, and by two sons and a daughter.

## JIMMY RANEY

Jimmy Raney, jazz guitarist, died in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 10 aged 67. He was born there on August 20, 1927.

DESPITE choosing to live quietly, and mainly out of the public eye for the last 25 years, Jimmy Raney remained one of the most profound stylistic influences on jazz guitar playing. The most talented and prolific of a family of guitarists, he played with the big bands of Woody Herman, Artie Shaw and Terry Gibbs, but made the greatest impact during the years he spent with Stan Getz's small groups, and his own quartets and trios.

He had a warm, glowing tone on the instrument, and assimilated the bebop innovations of Charlie Christian into a highly individual style of his own. He was among the first guitarists to explore the integration of formally composed motifs into his improvisations. His work was precisely summed up by the critic Ira Gitler as "a combination of fluid phrasing and extended melodic thinking, together with an acute sensitivity". This

description is as valid for Raney's first session under his own name made in April 1953 (with Stan Getz masquerading for contractual reasons as "Evan Coleson") as for his 1990 trio session with George Mraz and Lewis Nash. But Beautiful, which ranks as the highlight of his recent recordings.

James Elbert Raney was taught the rudiments of his instrument by his mother, who was an accomplished guitarist herself. He went on to have lessons in Louisville with A. J. Giancola and, more importantly, Hayden Causey who introduced him to records by Charlie Christian and gave Raney a job in the New York band led by Jerry Wald.

From New York (where he worked with the late Al Cohn, with whom he later played regularly), Raney went to Chicago in 1944 to play with pianist Lou Levy and Max Miller. His first major job began in 1948 when he replaced Gene Sargent in Woody Herman's orchestra just at the time it was making jazz history, its bebop arrangements, and the innovative soloing of Zoot Sims, Getz and Cohn left an indelible

stylistic mark on Raney, whose guitar chords introduced the band's version of *Lullaby in Rhythm*.

From Herman's band, Raney went on to play with Buddy De Franco and Artie Shaw. He joined Stan Getz in 1951 and remained with him for more than two years, during which time they made a number of influential recordings, including a series of live sessions from Boston's Storyville Club. Getz's bassist Bill Crow maintains that Getz's growing drug dependency caused Raney to leave in 1953 and travel to Europe with Red Norvo, although Raney did rejoin Getz in 1962-63.

In the 1950s Raney worked with Billie Holiday, Teddy Charles and Jimmy Lyons. After a period as a New York studio musician, Raney went back to Louisville, where he painted, composed and taught himself the cello. His compositions (with titles like *Signal, Motion and Five*) were distinctive, and several of them were recorded.

In the early 1970s Raney made one of what became a series of comebacks. His playing was as dazzling as ever, and he was frequently partnered by his son Doug, with whom he made numerous albums. Nevertheless, an aversion to travelling kept him in Louisville for much of the time and, despite periodic visits to Europe or New York, much of his best work from recent years was done in the studio.

On what was to be one of his last sessions, in 1990, he recorded one of his own compositions, a tribute to the Louisville painter Ray Parker, that was, over eight minutes, the epitome of his elegant and technically perfect style.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## TRUSTEE ACTS

IN THE PRIVATE COMPANY OF TRUSTEES, I am pleased to announce that I have been elected to the office of Trustee of the company for the year ending 31st March 1996. I am a member of the company since 1971 and have been a Trustee since 1981. I am a member of the company since 1971 and have been a Trustee since 1981. I am a member of the company since 1971 and have been a Trustee since 1981.

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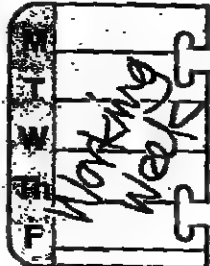


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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 3 1995

## DTI blocks Securicor-BT deal over Cellnet

By ERIC ROGLEY

THE Government has blocked behind-the-scenes efforts by Securicor to sell its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, its most valuable investment, to British Telecom, which owns the rest of the mobile phone operator.

The decision is a blow to both Securicor and BT. Securicor has been trying to sell its Cellnet stake for some time, partly because it has no control over the investment, and BT wants to consolidate its position in the fast-growing industry. Christopher Shirecliffe, Securicor's finance director, said: "We are disappointed. The DTI gave us an emphatic no."

The Department of Trade and Industry gave

no reason for its refusal to allow BT to take 100 per cent of Cellnet, which is close to overtaking Vodafone as the leader in the domestic market. It appears the DTI did not want to give BT, the dominant phone company, the chance to become the dominant mobile operator as well.

The restriction on BT increasing its stake beyond 60 per cent dates back to 1994, when BT and Securicor bought into Cellnet. The companies have been trying to get the restriction waived and approached the DTI again in recent weeks, after having agreed in principle on the terms of the sale.

Mr Shirecliffe said Securicor wants to sell its Cellnet investment because it has come to dwarf its other operations. He said: "It

represents 80 per cent of our market capitalisation and we have no direct management control over it. It's a situation that can be viewed as the tail wagging the dog."

Securicor's market capitalisation is about £1.4 billion, implying that its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet is valued at about £1.1 billion. Analysts have said the stake is worth from £1.2 billion to £1.4 billion. Cellnet contributed almost 70 per cent of Securicor's pre-tax profits of £80.6 million in its latest financial year.

John Karidis, an analyst with Kleinwort Benson, said Securicor has been anxious to sell because Cellnet is approaching peak value. "If they sell it today, they'll get top dollar." He said Cellnet was facing increased competition — it

has three major competitors, including Orange and Mercury One-2-One — and faces the enormous cost of gradually transferring its 1.7 million analogue customers onto the higher-capacity digital spectrum. Cellnet, unlike Vodafone, also lacks a large foreign presence.

Lazard Brothers, Securicor's financial adviser, is examining Securicor's options in the wake of the DTI's intransigence. These include keeping the Cellnet stake, selling it to an outside investor, such as another telecoms company or an investment firm, or floating it on the stock market through a secondary offering. Mr Karidis said Securicor would have a hard time selling Cellnet because BT has control of the company.

## Sorrell pay deal valued at £21m

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MARTIN SORRELL, chief executive of WPP, could make more than £21 million in pay, bonuses and share handouts over the next five years if shareholders back a proposed pay package which towers above those awarded to heads of the privatised utilities.

The package is linked to demanding performance targets and includes 4.99 million shares to which Mr Sorrell will be entitled if the share price achieves compound growth over five years to reach 304p. The share entitlement would then be worth £14.25 million. Under the complex incentive deal, Mr Sorrell will also be able to double his current salary of £750,000.

The package is part of the group's capital investment plan which includes a cash injection from Mr Sorrell of £2.2 million. It was first outlined last September when it was also announced that Mr Sorrell would move from a five-year rolling contract to a three-year fixed one.

The company defends the remuneration plans on the lines that they are closely linked to performance and are in conjunction with a significant investment by Mr Sorrell. Sources close to WPP say that the large growth required for Mr Sorrell to get the full

remuneration means he would get just 1 per cent of that increased value.

The lengthy wait between the initial outline and the package details is attributed to the complexity of the arrangements, tax considerations and the liaison required between the operations in the UK and the US. Sources close to the company deny that the time has been spent winning over uneasy shareholders.

The vote will be put to shareholders at an extraordinary meeting after the annual meeting on June 26. But institutions fund managers look set to back the vote, since they regard the performance hurdles as rigorous.

One investment manager described the remuneration as excessive. "It makes the award to Cedric Brown seem positively mean."

The largest minority shareholders in WPP — Fidelity and Provident Mutual — declined to comment on the package or whether they would vote to endorse it. The Association of British Insurers says it is satisfied with the terms of the package.

Lorna Tibbitt, analyst at the stockbroker Panmure Gordon, said the company is not being free with its cash in making such payment terms to Mr Sorrell. "The company has to do amazingly well for him to achieve that," she said.

Mr Sorrell's share awards are structured in four tranches and depend on growth targets and also on WPP outperforming the FT-SE 100 index. The required share price growth over the five years would value the company at £2.2 billion, as against its current valuation of £962 million. The shares fell 3p to 128p.

Mr Sorrell refused to comment on the package.



Martin Sorrell will inject £2.2 million of his own cash into WPP at the start of the incentive period

## Slump in US jobs points to cut in interest rate

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A FALL in American employment figures last month, revealed yesterday, has ignited speculation that the US Federal Reserve will be forced to cut interest rates to avert a renewed recession.

Non-farm payrolls, the main US indicator of employment, dropped by 101,000 in May, the biggest monthly decline for more than four years. Wall Street analysts had been looking for 166,000 jobs to be created. April's drop of 9,000 in non-farm payrolls, which Wall Street had expected to be revised to show a gain, was revised only a little to a fall of 7,000.

The US index of leading indicators for April was also much weaker than expected, falling 0.6 per cent. This is the third successive monthly decline, usually taken as a sign that recession is on the way. The last time the indicators fell for three months in a row was between June and November, 1990. America went into recession in July, 1990.

Robert Rubin, US Treasury Secretary, said that the jobs figures were a matter of great concern but said that he was not predicting recession. John Lonsdale, senior economist at Moody's Investors Services, said that the payroll release was an ominous development and the risk of a recession within six months was now as high as 40 per cent.

Nobody was prepared for the pronounced weakness of the jobs data and the South-west Bank of St Louis, which has built a reputation for leading the rest of the American banking system in cutting rates, underlined the significance of the figures by cutting its prime lending rate to 8.5 per cent from 9 per cent.

There is now open speculation that the Fed will have to consider cutting rates. Wayne Angell, chief economist at Bear Stearns but also a well-known former Fed governor, said that the question of a rate cut was likely to be the sole

subject of debate within the Fed now and that an easing was likely in July or August.

Yesterday's jobs news sent bonds soaring. The yield on the long bond fell below 6.5 per cent, its lowest level since the Fed raised rates in February 1994 sending bonds into a year-long spiral. This had a powerful effect on the UK Treasury bond market where long-dated bonds closed nearly a full point higher.

The dollar slumped two pence and more than half a yen immediately after the news but recovered well. It was helped partly by news that Bosnian Serbs had shot down a Nato plane, which sparked some inflow of "safe haven" money, and partly by fear that the Fed could repeat the aggressive intervention seen on Wednesday.

At the European close, the dollar traded around DM1.480, well above its low of DM1.390. It also recovered to ¥84.85 from ¥83.38. Sterling fell nearly three pence against the mark.

## WEEKEND MONEY



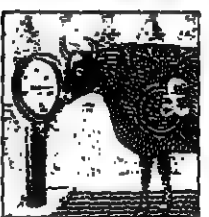
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## Online for an Internet first

By ERIC ROGLEY

MCI Communications and The News Corporation, which signed a \$2.4 billion deal last month to create an information and entertainment alliance, said they intend to launch a global online newspaper as one of their first projects.

Greg Clark, president of the news technology group of News Corp, said the electronic newspaper, the first of its kind, would be available to users of the Internet, the worldwide network of computers. "We envisage that we'll be able to draw on all the News Corporation titles worldwide," he said.

News Corp, parent company of The Times, owns more than 100 titles, including The Australian and the New York Post. The newspapers that would provide editorial content for the service, and how subscribers would pay for it, has yet to be decided.

Bill O'Neill, chief executive of News International, News Corp's British subsidiary, said: "I think a global electronic paper has a lot of appeal and it's something we should be looking at. It would combine the great strengths of both companies."

The newspaper initially would be offered to subscri-

bers to the online businesses of MCI and News Corp. MCI, America's second-largest overseas telephone company, recently started Internet MCI, which offers services such as electronic shopping. News Corp owns Delphi Internet Services, one of the top five online data companies.

The idea of the electronic

newspaper was discussed yesterday at meetings between MCI officials, led by Michael Rowley, executive vice-president of ventures and alliances, and officials of News International and BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, which is 40 per cent owned by News International.

Other online ideas discussed included expanded shopping services and Internet advertising. Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, mentioned last month that America's TV Guide, another title in the News Corp portfolio, could be put online.

The MCI-News Corp joint venture is designed to exploit News Corp's media resources and MCI's ability to distribute information and entertainment over its vast network. MCI will acquire a 13.5 per cent stake in News Corp for \$2 billion. Each company will invest \$200 million in a multi-media joint venture.



Greg Clark, left, Michael Rowley and Bill O'Neill at News International's London headquarters yesterday



FTSE 100	3248.0	(+4.4)
SEI All shares	1043.57	(+1.54)
Nikkei	12648.73	(+254.29)
DAX	4488.58	(+11.79)
FTSE 100	3248.0	(+4.4)

Federal Funds	5.75%	(0%)
Long Bond	7.35%	(-0.05%)
3-mth Interbank	6.75%	(0.00%)
Life long gilt	10.00%	(0.00%)

New York	1.5000	(1.5000)
London	1.5000	(1.5000)
DM	1.5000	(1.5000)
FF	7.5000	(7.5000)
SPY	1.5000	(1.5000)
Yan	1.5000	(1.5000)
£ Index	94.0	(0.4)

London	1.4185	(1.4088)
DM	4.9810	(4.9800)
FF	7.5000	(7.5000)
SPY	1.5000	(1.5000)
Yan	1.5000	(1.5000)
£ Index	94.0	(0.4)

Tokyo close Yen 85.0		
Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$17.80	(\$17.45)

London close	\$395.85	(\$394.05)
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\* denotes midday trading price



# British Gas: The Harder They Fall

It was a uniquely British occasion. The sun shone on minority shareholders in British Gas as they strolled into the London Arena: the place where Nigel Benn recently pulverised Gerald McClellan almost to death before an enthralled audience of close on 10,000.

Trade unionists dressed in denim did what trade unionists dressed in denim have done for decades. They held up placards and distributed leaflets. Such placards proclaimed: "Cedric your time is up." "They get the loot we get the boot." "British Gas snouts in trough saved by block vote." But placards and leaflets are not the stuff that excite picture editors. Hence the presence of a pig dubbed Cedric, housed in a British Telecom van and surrounded by press photographers. Shades of a garden fete that had sprung up in the unlikely vicinity of Docklands. All that was missing was a little old lady asking passers-by to guess the weight of a cake. Those holding the placards would al-

most certainly have guessed at 475,000 lbs.

Soothing sounds, courtesy of Enya, greeted shareholders as they filed into the arena. Not, as time would tell, soothing enough. Richard Giordano's speech, the subject of a thousand drafts, was polished, much like himself. Giordano spoke of trends. British Gas had been required to "artificially" reduce its share of the industrial and commercial gas markets, now down to 35 per cent, against the MMC's target of 55 per cent. Since privatisation, in 1989, the price of gas to domestic customers (excluding VAT) has fallen 21 per cent in real terms. During this period, the effect of regulation had reduced operating profits some £3 billion. The trends did not sound good.

Giordano duly turned to the subject of executive pay. Three-year rolling contracts had been reduced to two-year rollers. Such sacrifice appeared to cut little ice with the 4,000-strong audience — embracing just 2,700 registered

shareholders. The annual cash bonus scheme, which would have paid out significant bonuses in 1994, had been abandoned. Yet again, the executive directors had readily relinquished such benefits. No substitute had been put in place. Similarly, share options had been abandoned in favour of a new long-term scheme, under which performance will be measured by an improvement in the total return to shareholders. Giordano admitted that certain institutions thought that such targets may be "undemanding".

In an attempt to win his audience round, Giordano stressed: "We will listen very carefully to our shareholders, as well as shareholder representative bodies. The remuneration committee has the power to change the level of new awards each year and to change the targets."

Not for the first time, Giordano pointed out that Cedric Brown's remuneration had been compared with that of the chief executives of all the FT-SE 100 companies.



MELVYN MARCKUS

Brown ranked 49th. "It is quite obvious that many chief executives with smaller jobs have earned more than he has."

"We regret," said Giordano, "that we were not more adroit in explaining decisions and defusing attacks. But the future over pay quickly took on a political dimension. It became a surrogate for attacks on the entire policy of privatising utilities and the issue

of wide differentials in income between different segments of society."

Giordano made no attempt to produce any rabbits out of the hat. His policy was to hold the line. The mood of the floor was captured with the remark that the greedy 13 were "pricking the conscience of the nation" with their "massive" pay increases.

Q: "Did you say to the institutions back us or sack us. Is that true. Is that right?"

Giordano: "No."

Calls for the board to be sacked, calls to appoint women to the board, calls to appoint racial minorities to the board. Should Giordano be a member of the remuneration committee, chaired by non-executive director Roger Boissier? Shareholders thought not. Labour MP Ken Livingstone, acting as a proxy for New York City Pension Funds, played to the press gallery. With an eye to Giordano's proxies he remarked: "Thankfully, where I come from, nobody stands up and says 'I've

got all these votes stuffed in my back pocket.'" It was Livingstone who described Giordano & Co as "the most interesting thing to come to Docklands since the Kray Gang". Why, he also wanted to know, was the TV and radio aspect of the media banned from the hall. Giordano was left to argue, off a well-shod back foot, that the presence of TV cameras would add nothing to a private meeting.

Amid this, news spread that Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Ofgas, had also felt compelled to ask for more. Ms Spottiswoode feels that her salary should be increased from £70,000 to £110,000, accompanied by an 8 per cent uplift in her pension entitlement. One shareholder went so far as to blame British Gas for Ms Spottiswoode's demands. Greed was perceived as contagious.

Equally perplexing was the news that Michael Heseltine has chosen to raise Professor Stephen Littlechild's remuneration from

around £85,000 to nearer £100,000. Littlechild's decision earlier this year to review his own distribution review exquisitely wrongfooted investors who had just purchased shares in the GENCOs. It also sounded the death knell for RPI minus X, the formula he invented upon which much of the regulation of UK utilities is based. Despite the DIT's largesse, speculation persists that Littlechild will leave Ofgas before the next Election.

Meanwhile, the infamous Resolution 13, calling on British Gas to "revise its remuneration policy for executives in line with standards of best practice" attracted votes of just 16.9 per cent compared with 83.1 per cent against. This is significantly less than Pric, which put forward the resolution, anticipated.

As one shareholder told Giordano: "I hope you will heed what has been said because you have had a rough meeting. British Gas and its institutional shareholders are acutely aware of this."

## Fall in house prices is accelerating says Halifax

By ANNE ASHWORTH AND LIZ DOLAN

FURTHER evidence of the ailing state of the housing market was revealed yesterday amid speculation that the Government is proposing measures to help homebuyers in negative equity.

The Halifax Building Society house price index for May showed a third successive fall. The speed of decline is also gathering.

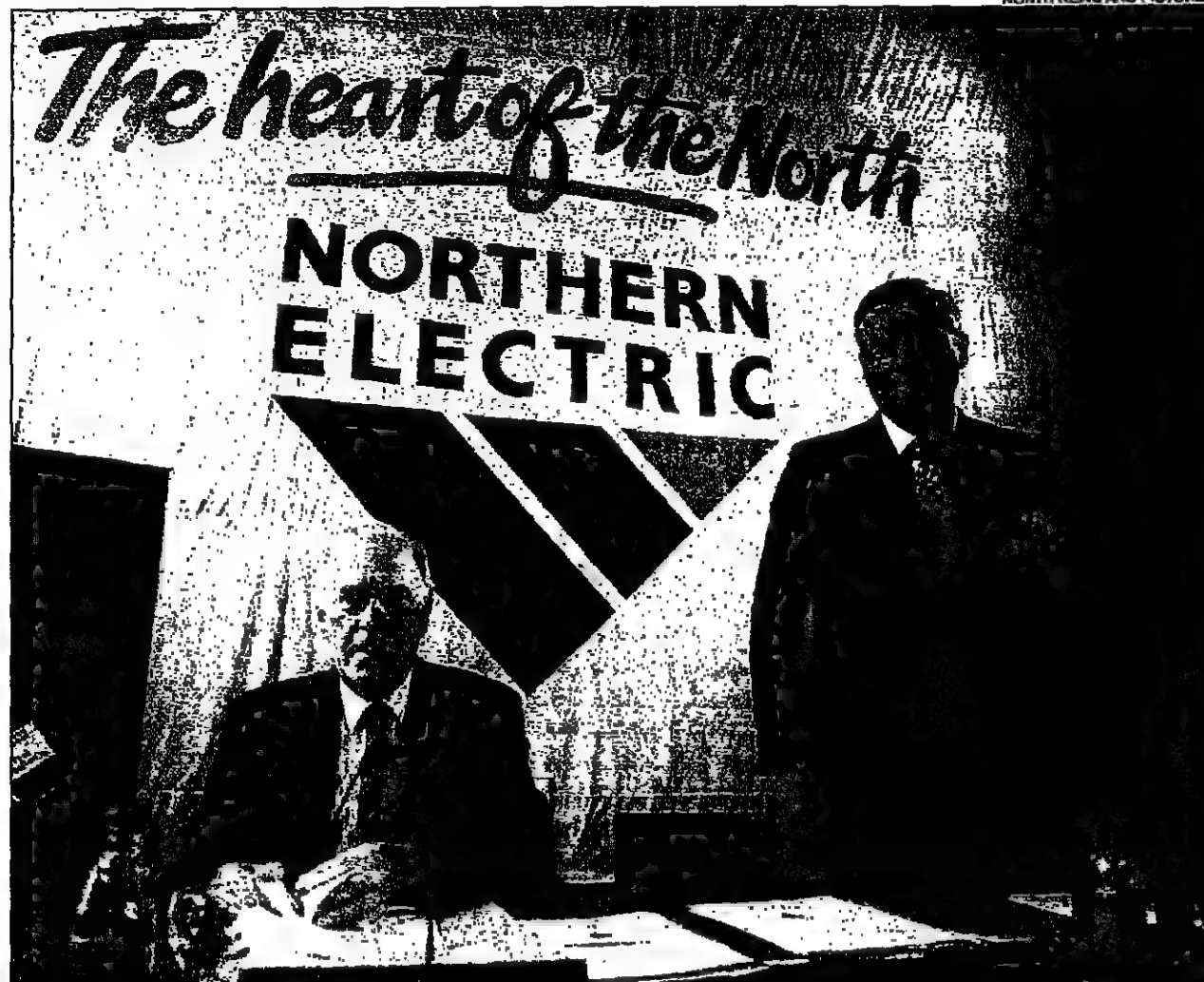
Prices last month were 0.9 per cent lower, against a decrease of 0.3 per cent in March and 0.4 per cent in April. Over the year, they are 1.4 per cent lower.

The Halifax figures paint a slightly more pessimistic picture of the market than those from the Nationwide Building Society, released on Thursday, where prices were down 0.8

per cent over the year. Now all eyes are on the Inland Revenue housing transaction statistics for May, to be published later this month. The April figures for this key indicator showed that transactions had fallen to 85,000, the lowest since records began in 1977.

The Halifax put part of the blame for the market's sorry state on the Government which, it said, "showed no sign of committing additional resources to stimulate the market."

The Council of Mortgage Lenders said in a statement yesterday: "The current, somewhat heated debate runs the risk of obscuring the major policy issues, not least in the run-up to the publication of the Government's White Paper on housing, expected this summer."



Power play: Tony Hadfield, left, chief executive, and David Morris at yesterday's Northern Electric meeting

## Mortgage lending falls to lowest since August 1993

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MORTGAGE lending in April was at its weakest level since the middle of 1993 heightening fears of deterioration in the housing market, according to new figures from the Bank of England.

The latest evidence adds to a clutch of indicators over the past month of growing weakness in domestic demand, and gives the Chancellor of the Exchequer strong ammunition against any request for higher interest rates from the Bank at next Wednesday's monetary meeting.

Net mortgage lending by banks, building societies and other lenders was a seasonally adjusted £1.3 billion, the low-

est figure since August 1993, and compared with £1.64 billion in March this year. Mortgage lending has declined from its peak of £1.9 billion in May. Annual reserves totalled £29.33 billion.

Net consumer credit rose £498 million, a little down on the £514 million rise in March. Although consumer credit growth remains fairly high, it is now clearly on a sliding trend. Companies on the other hand appear to be borrowing more, which may signal an upturn in investment.

Separate figures from the Treasury yesterday showed that Britain's gold and foreign currency reserves rose by an underlying \$175 million in May. Annual reserves totalled \$29.33 billion.

The Finance and Leasing Association poured cold water on hopes that investment is growing with figures showing a steady decline in the growth of investment in plant and machinery over the past year. In the year to April, the finance available for investment in plant and machinery was 20 per cent up on a year ago but in the last three months the comparative rise has been only 13 per cent.

## Northern Electric votes down bid move

By OUR CITY STAFF

AN AMERICAN fund manager was barracked by a Tyneside audience yesterday as he attempted to speak at the special meeting of Northern Electric that he called in an attempt to force the board to consider a fresh bid from Trafalgar House, the Q&Z and Ritz hotel conglomerate.

At the end of the stormy meeting, Guy Wyser-Pratte, 55, a former US Marine, also had a sharp verbal exchange with Sir Paul Nicholson, a non-executive director of Northern Electric and a former Coldstream Guardsman. Sir Paul said Mr Wyser-Pratte had been "talking nonsense" and did not understand the British way in takeover.

Mr Wyser-Pratte's motion to allow a new bid from Trafalgar won 22 million votes in favour, 18.3 per cent of the total number of shares in issue. Only half were voted in the poll.

David Morris, the Northern Electric chairman, told the shareholders: "It is our strong view that any renewed offer that Trafalgar House might wish to make for your company ought to await Professor Littlechild's [the electricity regulator] announcement..."

## Sears loses Boland to WEW

By SARAH BAGNALL

WEW GROUP, the Scottish discount clothing retailer trading as What Everyone Wants, has poached Richard Boland, head of the home shopping business of Sears, the retailing group.

Mr Boland, 44, is to become managing director of What Everyone Wants on July 31, the day after he leaves Sears,

where he has been managing director of the Freeman's catalogue business since July 1993. WEW, formerly known as Amber Day, has 76 outlets.

Mr Boland entered retailing as an executive trainee with C&A in 1973, before spending a year with Asda, five years with GUS, the UK's biggest mail-order catalogue busi-

ness, and a year as joint managing director of Danielle, a clothing importer. He joined Sears in 1989.

Peter Carr, WEW chairman, said that Mr Boland's appointment was part of a reshaping of the board to bring it in line with Cadbury guidelines. Further appointments are expected.



Van Wezel: shares hit

## Three quit Hi-Tec board

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Hi-Tec Sports yesterday took another kicking, diving 3 p.p. to 26p, after three directors of the troubled company resigned, with claims that they have lost confidence in the current management.

Jim Fallon, a former finance director of the British Shoe Corporation, joined Hi-Tec in March after Peter Butler quit. Hi-Tec, facing intense competition, fell to a £6.96 million pre-tax loss in the year to January 31, from £1.13 million profit previously. The slide in its shares, from above £2 a few years ago, has eroded the value of the 53 per cent stake of Frank van Wezel, founder chairman.

son for the departures was non-financial. "This does not leave us exposed and I have already spoken personally to the banks. Everyone has been informed," he added.

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## Proms discord ended

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A DISPUTE over a computer system that failed to perform to expectations was resolved yesterday when the Performing Right Society agreed a £2.4 million settlement with Learnmonth & Burchett Management Systems.

The settlement, payable over five years, ends a wrangle that began in 1992 when the society, which protects composers' copyrights and changes for broadcast and public performances of works, halted the development of Proms (Performing Right On-Line Membership Services).

The system, in which the society said it had invested £11 million, proved too slow in

information checking. It said that an independent consultant advised that the system, for which Learnmonth & Burchett was the project manager, would not work effectively without significant additional spending.

PRS filed a claim against Learnmonth & Burchett in 1993 for £16 million, although it now says it has written off £8 million over the failure of Proms. Following the claim, it served a writ last year.

No-one involved in the settlement negotiations at PRS was available yesterday to comment, but a spokeswoman said that the claim had represented an initial position,

PRS, whose turnover last year was £163 million, said that while a large amount of management time was lost preparing for the system, it was able to continue its business functions through its IBM mainframe.

Rainer Burchett, chairman of Learnmonth & Burchett, said: "This removes the distraction and cost of a complex and protracted litigation suit, relating to a business area which is now discontinued."

Although a limited company, PRS makes no profits. The performance fees go to its 27,500 members, composers and publishers, who are effectively its owners.

Bank		Bank	
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.33	2.18	
Austria Sch	16.85	15.35	
Belgium Fr	48.17	44.87	
Canada \$	2.288	2.139	
Cyprus Cyp£	0.762	0.697	
Denmark Kr	9.82	9.55	
Finland Mk	7.47	6.82	
France Fr	8.34	7.88	
Germany Dr	2.41	2.20	
Greece Dr	377.00	352.00	
Hong Kong \$	10.01	12.01	
Ireland P	1.03	0.81	
Israel	6.3046	4.9946	
Italy Lit	2728.00	2580.00	
Japan Yen	150.00	134.00	
Malta	0.632	0.547	
Netherlands Gld	2.674	2.444	
Norway Kr	10.80	9.80	
Portugal Esc	248.60	230.00	
S Africa Rd	rel.	5.44	
Spain Pes	202.50	188.50	
Sweden Kr	12.25	11.45	
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.81	
Turkey Lira	rel.	66738.0	
USA \$	1.680	1.559	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

## On the rack

Nearly 203 years after opening, with WH Smith still under the spell of the founding dynasty, there is talk of the inheritance being squandered. Even potential bidders find it hard to believe that WH Smith has come to this... 9

Business Focus  
The Sunday Times  
tomorrow



## A WORKING WEEK FOR: HEINRICH VON PIERER

## Top player with a hard-hitting message

The head of Siemens is preaching revolution to his 377,000 employees. Colin Narbrough meets a man who believes in taking risks



CALMLY sipping plain mineral water in his vast office in central Munich, Heinrich von Pierer points to the blank wall above his desk. The other afternoon, the head of Siemens, the German electronics and electrical engineering group, popped over to an art gallery in Darmstadt (a 370-mile round trip) to look for a picture to fill the empty space.

Pierer has embarked on a daunting campaign of rapidly converting his 377,000 workforce to the creed of innovation and service, moving it away from its traditional worship of engineering and strict, lumbering hierarchy. The picture is part of the change.

He explains that he wants on his wall "something from South-East Asia". The message he wants it to convey is one of *Aufbruch*, a very German concept that translates best as awakening, or fundamental change. And Asia is important. "We are very active in China," Pierer says. The image he is trying to make Siemens shed is that of a DMBS-billion-turnover dinosaur of a company which many critics half-jokingly call a bank with a large manufacturing arm attached.

The description arises from the company's ability to ride out the rough parts of the economic cycle thanks to its huge financial muscle. Its return on sales last year was, however, 2.5 per cent before tax, just over half that of ABB, one of its leading European rivals. America's General Electric was well into double digits. Pierer, at the helm since 1992, is well aware that achieving the change he wants at the pace he considers crucial is rather like trying to turn a supertanker round in a hurry.

The scale of his task is illustrated by the sheer size of Siemens, which has 48,000 people working in research and development, matching the total workforce of some leading British companies. With that much brainpower, one might guess that effecting change would be difficult. Production ranges from computer chips to state-of-the-art power plant and telecommunications equipment, all fields of accelerating change.

May, a month of constant huddles with senior executives discussing the group's five-year outlook, keeps Pierer more office-bound than usual. Much of his year is spent travelling. In 1994 he visited every country in Europe, except Italy, and made forays to more distant parts, primarily Asia. Last summer's group press conference, big enough to resemble a shareholders' meeting, was in Prague. This year, it is Vienna's turn.

Round-the-clock bodyguards and an armoured limousine are par for the course for anyone running a major German company, because urban guerrillas have been a threat since the 1970s.

Pierer does not like talking about it, probably on police advice. It does, however, shape his life, adding a disturbing dimension that most British corporate captains never experience.

Pierer started his week at his family home in Erlangen, 125 miles north of Munich and the site of important Siemens facilities. Monday saw an unprecedented face-to-face session at the town hall with 2,000 company staff, mainly administrators, engineers and salespeople. Having easily reached his top executives with his call for revolution, Pierer admits that there has been little trickle-down to the rest of the workforce. For the very proper Siemens, it was the first time a chief executive had taken part in a meeting of the staff council. Pierer used it to propound his "time optimised process", the management slogan designed to foster speed, creativity and market-orientation among the workforce worldwide. In spite of his reassuring manner, this boss wants to make people take more risks, to innovate, and to change their work practices to fit the task. One division gives an annual prize for the biggest mistake.

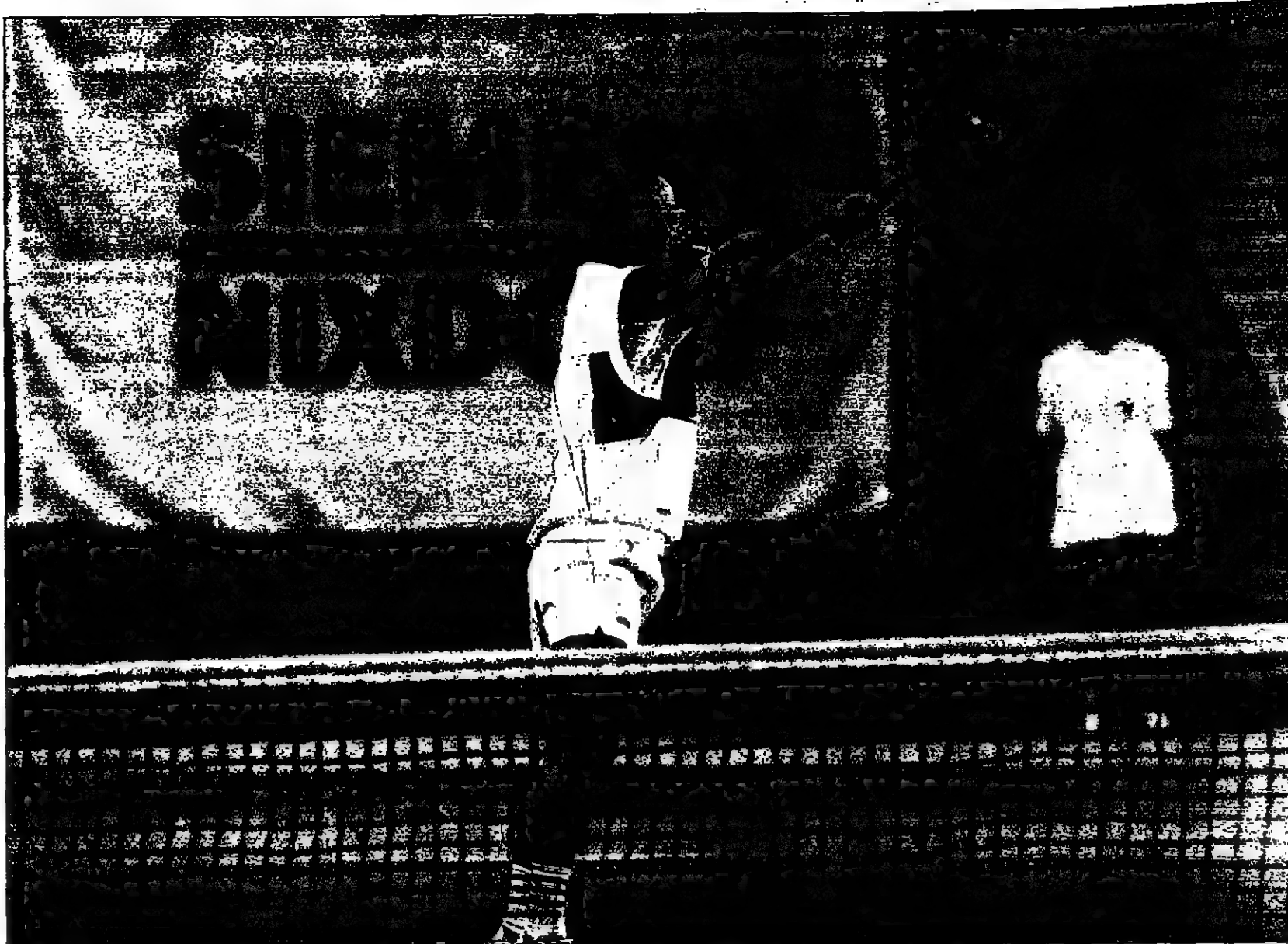
Fifty per cent of added value now comes from software engineering, which is getting bigger, and the added value from the factory is getting smaller, especially in electronics," Pierer says. He is concerned about the huge cost difference between Siemens's German operations and the low-cost economies in Asia and Eastern and Central Europe, Germany's backyard.

The latest wage round in Germany, which gave Siemens workers a 10 per

cent increase over two years, has reinforced Pierer's conviction that radical change is pressing. "The pay increase here is more than half the total cost of labour in the Czech Republic, only 150 kilometres from Munich," he says.

Although Pierer is no enemy of the "social peace" that western Germany has enjoyed since the Allies imposed the present trade union structure after the Second World War, he believes that the bargaining process must be altered in the light of global realities. "If we don't react we are dead," he says. Surprisingly, his call for changed pay bargaining wins him applause from the staff at Erlangen.

The British approach, which has diminished union power, is not what Pierer is urging upon Germans. "I have nothing against the unions and the right to free bargaining," he says. "My main message to the staff is change," Pierer says. Confident that Siemens has first-class material to work with and is well down the road towards lower costs, he adds that he now wants to "accelerate". As Bavarian junior tennis champion, he learnt how to get across the court. Despite his heavy days and well-filled evenings, the fit-looking 54-year-old



As a former junior tennis champion, Heinrich von Pierer knows that service counts. That, along with the need for innovation, is his creed

makes time for tennis, his favourite sport. The early evening match squeezed in at his sports club after a hard day may be therapeutic, but Pierer takes it seriously. Would he have done better taking up professional tennis rather than running Siemens? "Not moneywise... but Boris Becker is more famous," he says. He recalls how, as a young student on an English language course at Oxford, he travelled to Wimbledon, out of season, just to gaze on those hallowed lawns.

Tennis did not become his career, but politics almost did. Pierer dubs himself a "failed politician". Having sat for the CSU, Bavaria's Christian Democrats, on the Erlangen city council, he tried to enter the Bundestag in 1976, unsuccessfully. It is questionable whether he has escaped politics, or would have had more influence as a politician than he now has as head of one Germany's biggest companies. As a senior figure in the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, and the Employers Association, and chairman of the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Industry, he constantly flits between centres of political and economic power, clocking up an incredible mileage. Today, it could be a

meeting with the Bavarian state premier to discuss the regional economy. Tomorrow, flying to Bonn to meet a visiting head of state from important faraway markets. The day after, he could be driving to an international discussion in Hanover on computer technology.

Thursday evening was spent in a conclave at the Starnberger See, just south of Munich, where Siemens has a lakeside training centre. As part of a programme to promote youth within the company, Pierer traded ideas with 15 high-flyers, trying to gauge the potential

of the new intake. In contrast to the old Prussian formality that once typified Siemens, the occasion was relaxed. "They know how to express themselves, are open, and I encourage them to be so," Pierer says. With half the Siemens workforce now non-German, communication skills have an obvious place.

A duty as head of Siemens is to be a voice of the corporate sector in the debate about where Germany is heading as an industrial nation. Indeed, something of a visionary is called for. A large chunk of Friday was spent drafting speeches. One,

for a Swiss conference, was on innovation. Another was for a symposium on German competition policy. Pierer is upset about the way Europe's national authorities still treat competition policy as if all the old borders were in place. "This cannot be relevant now we live in a globalised single market," he says.

Pierer is never really free from work. His ideal escape is hiking with his wife near home in the so-called Franconian Switzerland. "The mountains are not too high, there are woods, and only a few people," he says. Bliss.

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## When good housekeeping means selling the house

Neil Bennett on De La Rue's sale of the former home of the Portals chairman

The property market is due to see one of corporate Britain's most impressive hidden assets go on sale this summer. Laverstoke House, a magnificent country estate in Hampshire with 4,000 acres, is due to be sold by De La Rue, the banknote printer. The sale is likely to be low key for De La Rue, which is slightly embarrassed about the ownership of such a gem. Laverstoke came into its possession at the start of the year, after its successful £682 million bid for Portals, the banknote paper maker.



Laverstoke House, in Hampshire, was the former home of the Portals family

Mr Sheffield was said to pay a rent for his dwelling, but Portals steadfastly refused to reveal how much it was, although sources close to the company suggest that it was no more than a fraction of the £100,000 market rate. Mr Sheffield probably thought that he was justified in living at Laverstoke. As part of the Portals family, his ancestors have lived in the house for generations. Laverstoke was originally owned by his family but was transferred to Portals, which was then a private company, after the Second World War in an effort to avoid crippling death duties. Even though he no longer owned the house, Mr Sheffield continued to be responsible for

its upkeep, which, as owners of large old houses know, does not come cheaply. Laverstoke is a little more picturesque than the average executive home. Built in 1798 by Joseph Bonomi, the Italian architect, it is set in 4,000 acres of prime farmland and has some of the best trout fishing in southern England on the River Test. The house was also handy for the Portals head office at the nearby mill house. There, the gritty work of running the company was carried out in a converted stable block. Mr Sheffield did not have the run of the entire house. Portals rented out five flats at the back of the house and the company managed the rest of the estate, and in

recent years had been selling off some of the other houses and land that it owned. Mr Sheffield did have use of a modest four-acre garden.

When De La Rue launched its £682 million agreed offer for Portals last December, it was obvious that Laverstoke did not play a part in its long-term plans. The only reason that the house is not being put up for sale until August is that the country house market, like every expensive sport, has a fixed season. People want to buy and pay a top price only in high summer when the trees are in leaf, the crops are high and the whole estate looks its best.

Jeremy Marshall, De La Rue's chief executive, is a former Hanson manager and well accustomed to liquidating unwanted assets. He made it clear when the bid was being completed that De La Rue is not in the business of estate management. De La Rue paid a top price for Portals and will be glad of raising a few million pounds to offset it.

Mr Sheffield, now a De La Rue non-executive director, found alternative accommodation five years ago. In 1990, he bought another house on the estate from Portals at market price, after shareholder approval.

Given its position and charm, there should be no shortage of buyers for Laverstoke. They are unlikely to include public companies, however. The days when companies could house their managers in such style are fast disappearing, as shareholders show more interest than ever in pay and perks.

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## Workers stake claim to payout

INDUSTRIAL tribunals have been inundated with claims by part-time workers out to show that their exclusion from their employer's pension scheme is sex discrimination.

However, millions who have not yet filed claims could lose more than 15 years of backdated pension rights because the Government has barred retrospective claims dating back more than two years to limit the cost to employers.

The European Court ruled last year that part-timers — mainly women — who could show that they had been discriminated against could join the pension scheme and back-

date contributions. The court set no time limit for backdating, leaving it up to individual countries. In theory, benefits could be backdated to 1976, when sex discrimination rules were introduced. Employers calculated that this could cost them £10 billion.

The Government last month amended existing rules so that part-timers can claim only two years of backdated benefits for any pension earned after May 31, 1995. Claims must be brought within six months of leaving a job. Anyone who claims after this week will be caught by the restrictions.

There is consolation if they

claim successfully. As a trade-off for limiting retrospective claims to two years, employers must pay all contribution arrears. Under the court ruling, the cost of backdated contributions fell on employees.

Industrial tribunals will set backdating limits and decide who is to pay contribution arrears for those who claimed before May 31. They could be more generous than the Government, but John Cunliffe, of McKenna and Co, the law firm, said: "The Government hopes that the new regulations will be a 'signpost' to tribunals that the new limits are appropriate in such cases."

Sara McConnell charts the parliamentary progress of the Pensions Bill

## Revamped pension law on way

The Pensions Bill could pass into law as soon as next month, ending three years of argument and controversy about a measure that will directly affect millions of people's retirement security.

A committee of 28 MPs is scrutinising the Bill clause by clause, including a series of amendments brought in when the Government was defeated in the Lords. These include giving divorce courts the power to force pension schemes to make separate payments to former partners and paying war widows' pensions if they remarry and are subsequently bereaved again.

So what are the latest decisions from the committee?

**The Pensions Regulator.** For the first time, there will be a regulator to police the running of occupational pension schemes. But he or she will not have the powers or the funds to send in inspection teams to monitor schemes regularly or even routinely examine annual reports and accounts. Labour again failed to secure amendments that would have given the regulator more teeth. As the Bill stands, the regulator would have to wait for trustees, auditors or other

advisers to raise the alarm before going in.

**Sanctions on trustees.** Once the regulator has been alerted to wrongdoing, he or she will at least be able to do something about it. Trustees can be removed after a spot check. The Bill also sets out a wide range of sanctions, including prison terms, for trustees or other advisers who are caught out. They face unlimited fines for the most serious offences, including allowing a scheme run by a company to invest pension fund money in that company's own businesses.

**Member trustees.** The Government is proposing that a third of the trustees of a scheme should be scheme members rather than employers. Labour attempts to raise the proportion to half failed. But employers can get round the one-third provision by claiming they had told employees they had made other arrangements and there had been no objection. It is up to the employees to object.

**Solvency.** The question of whether a scheme has actually got enough money to pay out the



In step: the Government has been pushed into equalising state pension ages

benefits it has promised if it has to be wound up is central to members' financial security. But the difficulty is agreeing a basis on which a scheme's assets can be valued and matched with the pensions it has to pay. Under pressure from employers, the Government watered down its original proposals and schemes are now going to be allowed to

assume that a large part of their fund is invested in equities. They will also have up to five years instead of one to make sure schemes are 100 per cent solvent. Actuaries argued that describing this as a minimum solvency standard would mislead members, who would think it was a guarantee. The Government has accepted an amendment

changing "minimum solvency" to "minimum funding". The Opposition failed to get through an amendment changing the minimum funding requirement to a minimum employer's contribution.

**What is still to come**

**Compensation.** The Bill proposes a compensation scheme for members whose employer commits fraud or misappropriates pension fund money and the scheme is insolvent. The scheme will pay up to 90 per cent of missing assets or 90 per cent of the amount needed to make the scheme solvent.

**Equal state pension ages.** All women born after April 6, 1955, will have to wait until 65 before they can draw a state pension. Several decisions in the European Court have pushed the Government into equalising state pension ages. But there is a strong lobby urging a state pension age of 60 for all. Labour wants a "flexible decade" of retirement between 60 and 70.

**Divorce.** The Lords amendment refused to allow pensions to be split immediately on divorce. Supporters of the "clean break" will be lobbying vociferously for this.

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## Warning on income option

LIFE companies must tell investors with personal pensions of risks they face by drawing income from their pension fund when they retire instead of immediately using the money to buy an annuity. City regulators said this week.

A change in this year's Finance Act lets people delay buying an annuity until age 75. Instead, they can draw income direct from their pension fund. The theory is that the fund stays invested, generating income and capital growth. Pension providers say that the option is suitable only for those with a fund of at least £100,000.

Those retiring with personal pensions can take up to 25 per cent of the accumulated fund as a tax-free lump

sum. The rest must be used to buy an annuity, which pays a fixed income for life. Until this year, retired people had to buy the annuity immediately, even if annuity rates were poor at the time. Annuity rates depend on interest rates, which in turn determine the yields on gilts bought by insurance companies to guarantee the income. Anyone unlucky enough to retire when rates were low would be locked into a low income for life.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has told life companies that it will tighten its rules to give investors extra protection if it is not satisfied that they are being given suitable advice. The PIA move comes as the Government Actuary starts

drawing the final tables governing how much income people can take from their pension funds.

The PIA says that withdrawing from a personal pension to provide income erodes the fund's capital value; that future investment returns are uncertain and may not compensate for capital withdrawn; and that future interest rates are uncertain and may fall by the time an investor buys an annuity.

Few companies offer deferred annuity-buying, mainly because the Government Actuary has yet to set the maximum that people can take from funds at given ages. The rules allow withdrawal of 35 to 100 per cent of what someone would have received as annuity income.

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## Brave try to curb excesses

For those who mis-spent their youthful - Saturday - days with John Wayne movies, rather than the price pages, the words "running yield" first bring to mind an Indian warrior fast on his feet, a Linford Christie of the Sioux. The connection with fixed-interest stocks comes later.

Only those serious souls who interested themselves in the bond market, rather than westerns, will understand the exact significance of the term: an expression of the yield available today on a bond.

These are not the same people who will be attracted to the new corporate bond Peps aimed at the building society faithful. Which is why the yield calculation proposals published by Autif, the unit trust body, are to be welcomed, even if the rules are not yet all-encompassing.

To ensure that prospective corporate bond Pep investors



ANNE ASHWORTH  
Personal Finance  
Editor

realise that their capital could be at risk. Autif suggests that certain set data be supplied and bond yield calculations standardised. Running yield will be replaced with the more straightforward current yield, while gross return will supersede gross redemption yield.

However, the proposals have their shortcomings. Too much information will be supplied, some impossible to evaluate. One example is the statement of derivative risk. As reported on page 27, there is also considerable scope for

"marketing driven" (sharp, to you and me) groups to enhance their yields.

Autif has made an admirable attempt to curb excesses before they begin. But it needs to be still more suspicious of its members' motives.

### Lure of m-word

A BUILDING society boss who constantly extols the benefits of mutualism makes one suspicious. Nowadays, frequent use of the m-word does not necessarily indicate an attachment to tradition. It

may instead be an attempt to draw the attractions of his society to the attentions of a generous bidder.

Those executives whose devotion to mutualism is genuine may, in the future, be forced to find other more tangible ways to make their sceptical customers share their beliefs. One device could be company-style dividends. But, as a report from Rob Thomas, of UBS, reveals, the amounts that might be offered would not stop members dreaming of takeovers.

If half of post-tax profits were to be paid out in dividends, a Halifax saver with an average balance would receive £19, at least £481 less than the value of shares likely to be given away on the planned flotation.

At other large societies, estimated payouts would range from £81 to £21. Not even half enough to stop the Abbey, or its ilk, making advances.

## A guide to Lloyd's offer

Names are confused by

Lloyd's £2.8bn

compensation offer.

Sarah Bagnall

answers their questions

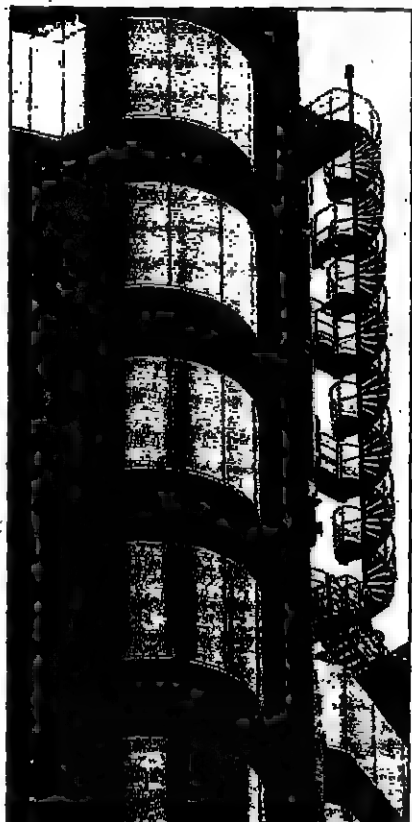
Lloyd's names this week cautiously welcomed the £2.8 billion compensation package. But many individuals remain confused as to how the deal works, and as to whether it offers a way out of their troubles. This is our guide.

### Why is there a need for an offer?

Lloyd's names have lost more than £8 billion in the past five years as a result of a string of catastrophes. However, many names believe their losses are the result of negligence on the part of their members' agents, who advised the names where to put their money, and the underwriters, who chose the risks. This belief has prompted more than 17,000 names to take legal action to try to win compensation for their losses. Some cases — the Gooda Walker Action Group and the Feltrim Names' Association — succeeded in proving negligence in the High Court. Many more are in the pipeline. The threat of legal action stretching out over years to come plus the growing reluctance of names to pay their debts has put the insurance market under severe financial strain.

### How does the scheme work?

Lloyd's has decided to write off £2 billion of names' debt. This means that part of the money owed to the market by Lloyd's names will not need to be paid. Lloyd's



Fortunes have been lost at Lloyd's

intends to hand out to names at least a further £800 million in cash.

### How will I, as a name, benefit?

This is yet to be clarified. Lloyd's is in the process of deciding how to distribute the cash and debt write-offs among names. In theory, it plans to write off the debts of those names who cannot pay their debts.

but to continue demanding payment from names who can pay their losses. If you are one of the names who is still actively underwriting then you are being asked to help to fund the settlement offer by an automatic deduction from profits that will be distributed next summer. However, some of the funds are likely to flow back to these names as they are included in the settlement offer. If you are a name in hardship, the Lloyd's bankruptcy system, you are also included in the offer as Lloyd's has promised to ensure that you are not penalised for having entered the scheme. Overall, it is likely that relatively few names — and only those who have paid debts in full — will receive a cheque.

### Are there any names who will be left with debts after the offer?

Lloyd's has structured the offer so that there is £400 million of debts left to be paid. That is, assuming the settlement package is accepted by all names and that current plans to collect a further £500 million of outstanding debts are successful. The £400 million debt will, however, be payable only by names who can afford to pay and may be collected over time.

### Is there a catch?

Lloyd's is setting up a new reinsurance company, called Equitas, into which names will transfer their liabilities for risks written in years before 1993. Names will have to pay a fee to offload these liabilities, which will be part funded by the £2 billion debt write-off. The catch is that Equitas is only a reinsurance company and if it collapses then the liability reverts back to the names. The plan is that Equitas, which requires Department of Trade and Industry approval, will have £16 billion of assets available to meet future claims and Lloyd's believes these will prove more than adequate.

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Sara McConnell joins housebuyers seeking bargains at auction

## Going, going — gone

Business at auction houses has been rising dramatically since housing experts exploded hopes of a rise in prices, with one predicting in a *Panorama* TV programme that they could fall by as much as 30 per cent over the next 20 years.

Sellers of properties that have languished on the market for years have decided they have nothing to lose by auctioning them. Buyers come seeking bargains.

Clive Emson, who runs an auction house in Maidstone, Kent, says: "I had more calls after the *Panorama* programme than ever before. People are thinking they might as well sell now."

Sellers frustrated by a lack of buyers for their properties are competing with repossessions put up for auction by lenders unable to offload them in a stagnant market. Of the properties auctioned by large houses such as Hambro Countrywide, 90 per cent are repossessions, giving the lie to the belief that these

are a problem of the past. Lenders and housing advisers believe that the number of repossessed properties is likely to rise again if the Government goes ahead with proposals to cut the state safety net for out-of-work or ill borrowers.

But according to a report this week from Shelter, the housing charity, 1,000 properties a week are being repossessed now, with a further 130,000 at "significant risk". The release of a large number of repossessed homes on to the market will further depress prices.

Only 10 per cent of the properties auctioned by regional houses such as Clive Emson Auctioneers are repossessions. Most are owned by people who have had no success selling through estate agents. Mr Emson believes that estate agents find it difficult to price properties accurately because of the lack of movement in the market. He says: "Until they go to auction, people don't know what the

price should be. Agents tend to say a house is worth £100,000 then watch the price come down. At auction, on a number of occasions, a property goes for more than expected." Sellers are prepared to pay the auctioneer's upfront fee of between £300 and £350 to get rid of their properties.

Auctions attract cash buyers, who have to pay a 10 per cent deposit immediately and the balance within the month.

The speed of the transaction, particularly for someone who has been trying to sell unsuccessfully, in some cases for years, is the main attraction. But the increased risk for the buyer means that the auction price will not reflect the market price.

Auctioneers are keen to persuade more people to buy at auction. Trevor Kent, chairman of the National Association of Estate Agents auction committee, says: "We need to explain to buyers that they shouldn't be afraid of going to auction."

RUSSELL SACH

## A windowsill of opportunity

Mike Logan Wood, the auctioneer, was trying hard. "There's been a lot of interest in this property, a lot of interest," he said, turning to lot 154, a typical, nondescript, Eighties block in Colchester, Essex. A one-bedroom, first-floor flat was on offer with a guide price of £17,000 to £20,000.

"£15,000?" said Mr Logan Wood hopefully. The room was "unmoved". A mobile phone rang in someone's pocket. "£12,000?" Finally, an eyebrow twitched. Bidding had started. An impassive man at the front was bidding against an impassive man at the back,

Most of the properties they were bidding for had been repossessed

perched almost out of sight on a windowsill. It was almost impossible to tell who was bidding because neither moved. The windowsill man won with a bid of £25,000, probably about a third of what the hopeful original buyer

had paid for it in 1988, when the present lease started.

But it soon became obvious that this was good going. At least the Colchester flat had attracted a higher bid than the guide price. Lot 157, a one-bedroom flat in a battered Victorian house in Upper Norwood, southeast London, which had seen better days, had been on the market at £25,995. Some hope now.

Mr Logan Wood suggested £15,000, but quickly dropped to £10,000. The price crawled up to £19,500. But the hopeful bidder was unlucky; the reserve price was £20,000. "But come and talk to me about it and maybe we can do business," said Mr Logan Wood.

Hambro Countrywide was holding its fourth auction of the week. Hundreds of lots in Leeds, Manchester and

Birmingham had already come under the hammer and now it was London's turn.

The hired room at Covent Garden's New Connaught Rooms was three-quarters full. Most of the properties they were bidding for had been repossessed, put up for auction by lenders after attempts to sell them through estate agents had failed.

Lenders have different reasons for using auctions, said Mr Logan Wood. "Some building societies say that after six or nine months they will sell at auction. Others will use auctions if a property is unmarketable because it

has structural problems, for example. "Structural troubles are no problem for the property dealers, who normally account for the majority of the bidders at London auctions. They often buy properties without seeing

them, unconcerned about their state. But the individual bidders, who made up about 40 per cent of the audience, would probably have visited anything that had caught their fancy in the weeks leading up to the auction."

They would have arranged viewings through local estate agents as they would any other house, then asked Hambro Countrywide for legal details. Hambro has a legal pack costing £10 that contains completed searches, details of leases and land registry entries, which it can send out for any property on its books.

Hambro can gauge interest by how many inquiries it fields and how many packs it sends out. This allows it to set an undisclosed reserve price just before the auction, below which the seller will not sell.

There were some tight smiles among the 30 or so middle-aged, middle-class, people present, but little movement to seats nearer the top table where bespectacled solicitors and staff from the estate agent sat. Mr Richardson was unperturbed. "If you want to bid, wave or attract my attention in some other way. Don't worry if you sneeze; you won't be spending half a million."

He explained that bidders would have a short time to reconsider. Once the hammer fell, the buyer would have entered into a contract that required the immediate payment of 10 per cent of the purchase price.

"Are you going to start me at £25,000?" said Mr Richardson as he invited bids for the first property, a mid-terrace house a mile from the city centre. The details described the two/three-bedroom house as "habitable" in spite of past structural movement needing "remedial action".

"£20,000? £15,000? £10,000? £10,000 at the back... £10,500... £11,000... eleven and a half... Within seconds, the price reached £13,250. "Don't lose it for a bid," he urged.

"£15,500 then. £15,500 first... second... third". The gavel fell, a deal was struck. The buyer, John Cunningham, 29, a Norfolk builder, appeared flushed and pleased.

It was the first time he had bid at a house auction. He was planning to spend £15,000 on renovations, then sell it for £41,000. "It won't lose money," he said.

Less comfortable was Steven Skyles, 32, an engineering sales representative. He found that he had paid £1,750 more than he had intended for a three-bedroom semi in a Norwich suburb. But as the legally-bound buyer, he must find the extra cash needed by June 16 — the completion date specified in the particulars — or risk a damages claim.

Mr Skyles and his wife, Deborah, have sold their studio flat in the city — but for £11,000 less than the outstanding loan. A Woolwich negative equity mortgage is enabling them to transfer the shortfall, to be added to the mortgage available for them to buy the semi. Their new advance depended on a satisfactory survey and searches. They will then spend £10,000 modernising the house to increase its value. This is why building societies are sometimes prepared to lend on "difficult" properties.

The final offering, a failed former restaurant, country club and small lake, was knocked down to a woman who had expected to pay almost double the £89,000 price.

She wanted to "open a bottle of bubbly and jump and scream and give everybody a hug...". Mr Skyles signed: "My wife'll probably kill me."

NICOLA COLE



John Cunningham is pleased with his auction purchase

## A sneeze will not cost half a million

Conversation was subdued in the oak-panelled room in the Norwich hotel. Newcomers were met with baleful stares. Why get friendly with people who could be bidding against you in a few minutes?

David Richardson, the youthful-looking auctioneer, tried to inject some levity into the proceedings. "Do sit at the front, I'm short-sighted and very elderly."

There were some tight smiles among the 30 or so middle-aged, middle-class, people present, but little movement to seats nearer the top table where bespectacled solicitors and staff from the estate agent sat. Mr Richardson was unperturbed. "If you want to bid, wave or attract my attention in some other way. Don't worry if you sneeze; you won't be spending half a million."

He explained that bidders would have a short time to reconsider. Once the hammer fell, the buyer would have entered into a contract that required the immediate payment of 10 per cent of the purchase price.

"Are you going to start me at £25,000?" said Mr Richardson as he invited bids for the first property, a mid-terrace house a mile from the city centre. The details described the two/three-bedroom house as "habitable" in spite of past structural movement needing "remedial action".

"£20,000? £15,000? £10,000? £10,000 at the back... £10,500... £11,000... eleven and a half... Within seconds, the price reached £13,250. "Don't lose it for a bid," he urged.

"£15,500 then. £15,500 first... second... third". The gavel fell, a deal was struck. The buyer, John Cunningham, 29, a Norfolk builder, appeared flushed and pleased.

It was the first time he had bid at a house auction. He was planning to spend £15,000 on renovations, then sell it for £41,000. "It won't lose money," he said.

Less comfortable was Steven Skyles, 32, an engineering sales representative. He found that he had paid £1,750 more than he had intended for a three-bedroom semi in a Norwich suburb. But as the legally-bound buyer, he must find the extra cash needed by June 16 — the completion date specified in the particulars — or risk a damages claim.

Mr Skyles and his wife, Deborah, have sold their studio flat in the city — but for £11,000 less than the outstanding loan. A Woolwich negative equity mortgage is enabling them to transfer the shortfall, to be added to the mortgage available for them to buy the semi. Their new advance depended on a satisfactory survey and searches. They will then spend £10,000 modernising the house to increase its value. This is why building societies are sometimes prepared to lend on "difficult" properties.

The final offering, a failed former restaurant, country club and small lake, was knocked down to a woman who had expected to pay almost double the £89,000 price.

She wanted to "open a bottle of bubbly and jump and scream and give everybody a hug...". Mr Skyles signed: "My wife'll probably kill me."

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Source: Medi-Quote 11/5/95

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# Of academic interest

Morag Preston  
trawls through  
this year's bank  
packages for  
undergraduates



Studying the accounts: clever use of low-cost overdrafts can ease the pain of a cash crisis

The minds of sixth-formers are concentrated on one matter only this month - A levels. But when examinations are over and the long wait for results begins, another concern joins the dread of not getting the right grades. Increasingly, undergraduates-to-be are concerned with money, or, more precisely, the lack of it. As the value of grants falls and students are forced to shoulder greater financial burdens, choosing a student account becomes a vital decision.

Students now expect to be in the red: eight out of ten start work with debts of more than £2,000. But the clever use of an interest-free overdraft can spare some of the pain.

The banks and building societies are starting to lay out their wares for the class of 1995. The Halifax Building Society was the first to make a move this week, announcing the terms of its student account, the Maxim, which now has a million customers. The millionth, Durham University student Louise Mackenzie, opened her account this month. Ms Mackenzie, a music student, will now enjoy a £1,000 interest-free overdraft, provided she seeks the society's permission. The author-

ised rate above £1,000 is 6.2 per cent, which rises to 11.2 per cent if you go into the red without permission.

Most Maxim account holders take out a £500 overdraft, which can be increased gradually. The bank looks at a customer's individual circumstances: how they conduct their account and how much they pay in.

The Bank of Scotland's £500 interest-free overdraft facility is one of the lowest on offer. The authorised rate above £500 is 11.75 per cent, which rises to 26.75 per cent for unauthorised overdrafts. "We take a responsible approach to lending," said a spokeswoman. "We don't want to encourage excessive borrowing."

Many of the students who bank with us live at home, so most don't need to borrow more than £500.

NatWest, which is extending its package to new and existing students, irrespective of the year in which they opened their account, launch their student terms next week. For students who prefer to conduct their banking business over the telephone, NatWest offers a student telephone service at 30 locations on nine campuses.

Lloyds, which captured last year's lion's share of freshers, has delayed the launch of its student account to watch the competition. Its student customers have an interest-free overdraft facility of up to £800.

The authorised rate above £800 is 7.9 per cent, which rises to 26.8 per cent on unauthorised overdrafts.

In previous years, the majority of Lloyds student accounts were opened by customers in their second or third year at university. "Students come to us having moved from an account elsewhere," said a spokeswoman.

Rates of interest payable on credits vary widely, from the Bank of Scotland's 4.75 per cent to Lloyds's 1 per cent.

Before making a final choice students should look beyond the freebies and shop around for the best deal. And they should check there is at least one branch and cashpoint near the place of study.

## THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

### Providing cost-effective healthcare

From Mr Tim Baker

Sir, One of the key influences on premiums (Weekend Money Letters, May 27) is the greater usage of private medical insurance by policyholders. The industry is currently seeing increases of about 10 per cent. Advances in medical technology and treatment improve the quality of care, but at a cost. High quality medical care is expensive and a large proportion of complex episodes, such as cardiac surgery (frequently costing over £10,000), are now undertaken in the private sector.

A further factor is the rate of "medical inflation" which reflects the cost of medical treatments, specialists' fees and accommodation. Norwich Union Healthcare has a significant programme aimed at trying to counter inflationary trends. For example, we encouraged the referral of the BMA Private Practice Fees Schedule to the Monopolies Commission. We do believe, however, that there are further opportunities for care to be provided more cost effectively and we will continue to pursue these vigorously.

The majority of our customers have seen premium increases of between 7.5 and 16 per cent. A minority have seen

greater increases, particularly where they have moved age band. We do believe, however, that our policies continue to offer value for money and remain competitive in the marketplace.

Finally, we welcome the OFT's investigation into the selling of health insurance and hope that it will help to promote a greater understanding of PMI policies and their benefits.

Yours sincerely,  
TIM BAKER  
(Commercial director),  
Norwich Union,  
Chilworth House,  
Hampshire Corporate Park,  
Templers Way,  
Eastleigh, Hampshire.

### Future of CGT

From Mr M.C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, Anne Ashworth (Comment, May 27) implies that CGT is increasingly regarded as a voluntary tax: she also calls for discussions regarding the scope and future of CGT. May I, through your column, help to get the ball rolling, while also highlighting certain routes whereby your readers can consider mitigating CGT bills.

Leaving aside the existence of Peps, the judicious use of which should insulate all but the largest share portfolios from CGT, there is a facility now available for investors who do not want to pay the Treasury up to 40 per cent of gains made - namely, CGT re-investment relief (RIR). Under RIR, tax on

any gains realised after November 29, 1993, can be deferred by investing the gains in shares in qualifying unquoted trading companies.

Shares which will be dealt with on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) will be regarded as unquoted for this purpose, while asset-backed unquoted trading companies now also qualify.

The above parameters raise the prospect, inter alia, of being able to defer (perhaps indefinitely) CGT by reinvesting in quasi-quoted, asset-backed companies. While such investments clearly have to be judged under normal commercial criteria, it seems likely that, if AIM achieves its objectives in terms of quality and investor support, AIM shares will become attractive prospects for RIR.

Further proof of the "voluntary" trend of CGT is that the Treasury projections appear to indicate that the current yield from CGT (£800 million pa) is set to decline by up to a third by 1998. CGT - the voluntary tax readers will no doubt have their own views as to its scope and future. Yours faithfully,  
M.C. FITZPATRICK  
(Senior tax consultant),  
Chantrey Vellacott Chartered Accountants,  
10-12 Russell Square, WCI.

### Calculating the cost of metering water

From Mr F.P. Taylor

Sir, The costs of metering water given in my letter (Weekend Money, May 20) were derived from the carefully controlled two-year trials carried out by the Water Services Association (WSA).

The lower costings are hypothetical ones based on estimates by the Office of Water Services, giving figures that it thinks should be attainable. Close examination of the

Ofwat calculations shows that the interest rates it uses are unrealistic and that some of its capital costs are suspect.

Neither the WSA nor the Ofwat costings make allowance for the replacement of the one in five meters that were found to be faulty. Yours faithfully,  
F. PAUL TAYLOR,  
7 Kingsway,  
Frodsham,  
Cheshire.

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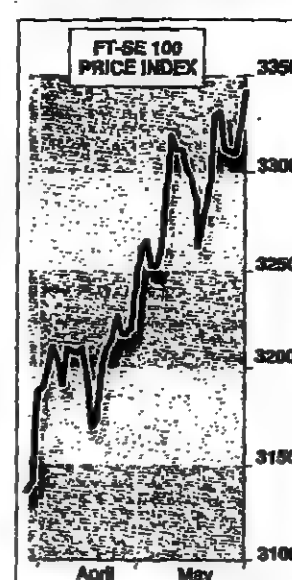
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**Compiled by: Morag Preston**

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Skipton	2.29	to £150k	95	8% disc 5 months
0800 446776				1.75% disc 1 year
<b>Banks</b>				
Abbey National	3.15	neg	75	5.18% discount to 30.6.98
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Lloyds	3.60	£80K+	95	4.75% for 1 year
Local Branch				

Larger lenders, longer loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Bley's Guides Ltd.  
 Further information: Bley's Guides, 01793 960486.

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As of 12/31/97	175,500	1,400	174,100
As of 12/31/98	183,500	1,400	182,100
As of 12/31/99	191,500	1,400	190,100
As of 12/31/00	200,000	1,400	198,600
As of 12/31/01	208,500	1,400	207,100
As of 12/31/02	217,000	1,400	215,600
As of 12/31/03	225,500	1,400	224,100
As of 12/31/04	234,000	1,400	232,600
As of 12/31/05	242,500	1,400	241,100
As of 12/31/06	251,000	1,400	249,600
As of 12/31/07	259,500	1,400	258,100
As of 12/31/08	268,000	1,400	266,600
As of 12/31/09	276,500	1,400	275,100
As of 12/31/10	285,000	1,400	283,600
As of 12/31/11	293,500	1,400	292,100
As of 12/31/12	302,000	1,400	300,600
As of 12/31/13	310,500	1,400	309,100
As of 12/31/14	319,000	1,400	317,600
As of 12/31/15	327,500	1,400	326,100
As of 12/31/16	336,000	1,400	334,600
As of 12/31/17	344,500	1,400	343,100
As of 12/31/18	353,000	1,400	351,600
As of 12/31/19	361,500	1,400	360,100
As of 12/31/20	370,000	1,400	368,600
As of 12/31/21	378,500	1,400	377,100
As of 12/31/22	387,000	1,400	385,600
As of 12/31/23	395,500	1,400	394,100
As of 12/31/24	404,000	1,400	402,600
As of 12/31/25	412,500	1,400	411,100
As of 12/31/26	421,000	1,400	419,600
As of 12/31/27	429,500	1,400	428,100
As of 12/31/28	438,000	1,400	436,600
As of 12/31/29	446,500	1,400	445,100
As of 12/31/30	455,000	1,400	453,600
As of 12/31/31	463,500	1,400	462,100
As of 12/31/32	472,000	1,400	470,600
As of 12/31/33	480,500	1,400	479,100
As of 12/31/34	489,000	1,400	487,600
As of 12/31/35	497,500	1,400	496,100
As of 12/31/36	506,000	1,400	504,600
As of 12/31/37	514,500	1,400	513,100
As of 12/31/38	523,000	1,400	521,600
As of 12/31/39	531,500	1,400	530,100
As of 12/31/40	540,000	1,400	538,600
As of 12/31/41	548,500	1,400	547,100
As of 12/31/42	557,000	1,400	555,600
As of 12/31/43	565,500	1,400	564,100
As of 12/31/44	574,000	1,400	572,600
As of 12/31/45	582,500	1,400	581,100
As of 12/31/46	591,000	1,400	589,600
As of 12/31/47	599,500	1,400	598,100
As of 12/31/48	608,000	1,400	606,600
As of 12/31/49	616,500	1,400	615,100
As of 12/31/50	625,000	1,400	623,600
As of 12/31/51	633,500	1,400	632,100
As of 12/31/52	642,000	1,400	640,600
As of 12/31/53	650,500	1,400	649,100
As of 12/31/54	659,000	1,400	657,600
As of 12/31/55	667,500	1,400	666,100
As of 12/31/56	676,000	1,400	674,600
As of 12/31/57	684,500	1,400	683,100
As of 12/31/58	693,000	1,400	691,600
As of 12/31/59	701,500	1,400	700,100
As of 12/31/60	710,000	1,400	708,600
As of 12/31/61	718,500	1,400	717,100
As of 12/31/62	727,000	1,400	725,600
As of 12/31/63	735,500	1,400	734,100
As of 12/31/64	744,000	1,400	742,600
As of 12/31/65	752,500	1,400	751,100
As of 12/31/66	761,000	1,400	759,600
As of 12/31/67	769,500	1,400	768,100
As of 12/31/68	778,000	1,400	776,600
As of 12/31/69	786,500	1,400	785,100
As of 12/31/70	795,000	1,400	793,600
As of 12/31/71	803,500	1,400	802,100
As of 12/31/72	812,000	1,400	810,600
As of 12/31/73	820,500	1,400	819,100
As of 12/31/74	829,000	1,400	827,600
As of 12/31/75	837,500	1,400	836,100
As of 12/31/76	846,000	1,400	844,600
As of 12/31/77	854,500	1,400	853,100
As of 12/31/78	863,000	1,400	861,600
As of 12/31/79	871,500	1,400	870,100
As of 12/31/80	880,000	1,400	878,600
As of 12/31/81	888,500	1,400	887,100
As of 12/31/82	897,000	1,400	895,600
As of 12/31/83	905,500	1,400	904,100
As of 12/31/84	914,000	1,400	912,600
As of 12/31/85	922,500	1,400	921,100
As of 12/31/86	931,000	1,400	929,600
As of 12/31/87	939,500	1,400	938,100
As of 12/31/88	948,000	1,400	946,600
As of 12/31/89	956,500	1,400	955,100
As of 12/31/90	965,000	1,400	963,600
As of 12/31/91	973,500	1,400	972,100
As of 12/31/92	982,000	1,400	980,600
As of 12/31/93	990,500	1,400	989,100
As of 12/31/94	999,000	1,400	997,600
As of 12/31/95	1,007,500	1,400	1,006,100
As of 12/31/96	1,016,000	1,400	1,014,600
As of 12/31/97	1,024,500	1,400	1,023,100
As of 12/31/98	1,033,000	1,400	1,031,600
As of 12/31/99	1,041,500	1,400	1,040,100
As of 12/31/00	1,050,000	1,400	1,048,600
As of 12/31/01	1,058,500	1,400	1,057,100
As of 12/31/02	1,067,000	1,400	1,065,600
As of 12/31/03	1,075,500	1,400	1,074,100
As of 12/31/04	1,084,000	1,400	1,082,600
As of 12/31/05	1,092,500	1,400	1,091,100
As of 12/31/06	1,101,000	1,400	1,099,600
As of 12/31/07	1,109,500	1,400	1,108,100
As of 12/31/08	1,118,000	1,400	1,116,600
As of 12/31/09	1,126,500	1,400	1,125,100
As of 12/31/10	1,135,000	1,400	1,133,600
As of 12/31/11	1,143,500	1,400	1,142,100
As of 12/31/12	1,152,000	1,400	1,150,600
As of 12/31/13	1,160,500	1,400	1,159,100
As of 12/31/14	1,169,000	1,400	1,167,600
As of 12/31/15	1,177,500	1,400	1,176,100
As of 12/31/16	1,186,000	1,400	1,184,600
As of 12/31/17	1,194,500	1,400	1,193,100
As of 12/31/18	1,203,000	1,400	1,201,600
As of 12/31/19	1,211,500	1,400	1,210,100
As of 12/31/20	1,220,000	1,400	1,218,600
As of 12/31/21	1,228,500	1,400	1,227,100
As of 12/31/22	1,237,000	1,400	1,235,600
As of 12/31/23	1,245,500	1,400	1,244,100
As of 12/31/24	1,254,000	1,400	1,252,600
As of 12/31/25	1,262,500	1,400	1,261,100
As of 12/31/26	1,271,000	1,400	1,269,600
As of 12/31/27	1,279,500	1,400	1,278,100
As of 12/31/28	1,288,000	1,400	1,286,600
As of 12/31/29	1,296,500	1,400	1,295,100
As of 12/31/30	1,305,000	1,400	1,303,600
As of 12/31/31	1,313,500	1,400	1,312,100
As of 12/31/32	1,322,000	1,400	1,320,600
As of 12/31/33	1,330,500	1,400	1,329,100
As of 12/31/34	1,339,000	1,400	1,337,600
As of 12/31/35	1,347,500	1,400	1,346,100
As of 12/31/36	1,356,000	1,400	1,354,600
As of 12/31/37	1,364,500	1,400	1,363,100
As of 12/31/38	1,373,000	1,400	1,371,600
As of 12/31/39	1,381,500	1,400	1,380,100
As of 12/31/40	1,390,000	1,400	1,388,600
As of 12/31/41	1,398,500	1,400	1,397,100
As of 12/31/42	1,407,000	1,400	1,405,600
As of 12/31/43	1,415,500	1,400	1,414,100
As of 12/31/44	1,424,000	1,400	1,422,600
As of 12/31/45	1,432,500	1,400	1,431,100
As of 12/31/46	1,441,000	1,400	1,439,600
As of 12/31/47	1,449,500	1,400	1,448,100
As of 12/31/48	1,458,000	1,400	1,456,600
As of 12/31/49	1,466,500	1,400	1,465,100
As of 12/31/50	1,475,000	1,400	1,473,600
As of 12/31/51	1,483,500	1,400	1,482,100
As of 12/31/52	1,492,000	1,400	1,490,600
As of 12/31/53	1,500,500	1,400	1,499,100
As of 12/31/54	1,509,000	1,400	1,507,600
As of 12/31/55	1,517,500	1,400	1,516,100
As of 12/31/56	1,526,000	1,400	1,524,600
As of 12/31/57	1,534,500	1,400	1,533,100
As of 12/31/58	1,543,000	1,400	1,541,600
As of 12/31/59	1,551,500	1,400	1,550,100
As of 12/31/60	1,560,000	1,400	1,558,600
As of 12/31/61	1,568,500	1,400	1,567,100
As of 12/31/62	1,577,000	1,400	1,575,600
As of 12/31/63	1,585,500	1,400	1,584,100
As of 12/31/64	1,594,000	1,400	1,592,600
As of 12/31/65	1,602,500	1,400	1,601,100
As of 12/31/66	1,611,000	1,400	1,609,600
As of 12/31/67	1,619,500	1,400	1,618,100
As of 12/31/68	1,628,000	1,400	1,626,600
As of 12/31/69	1,636,500	1,400	1,635,100
As of 12/31/70	1,645,000	1,400	1,643,600
As of 12/31/71	1,653,500	1,400	1,652,100
As of 12/31/72	1,662,000	1,400	1,660,600
As of 12/31/73	1,670,500	1,400	1,669,100
As of 12/31/74	1,679,000	1,400	1,677,600
As of 12/31/75	1,687,500	1,400	1,686,100
As of 12/31/76	1,696,000	1,400	1,694,600
As of 12/31/77	1,704,500	1,400	1,703,100
As of 12/31/78	1,713,000	1,400	1,711,600
As of 12/31/79	1,721,500	1,400	1,720,100
As of 12/31/80	1,730,000	1,400	1,728,600
As of 12/31/81	1,738,500	1,400	1,737,100
As of 12/31/82	1,747,000	1,400	1,745,600
As of 12/31/83	1,755,500	1,400	1,754,100
As of 12/31/84	1,764,000	1,400	1,762,600
As of 12/31/85	1,772,500	1,400	1,771,100
As of 12/31/86	1,781,000	1,400	1,779,600
As of 12/31/87	1,789,500	1,400	1,788,100
As of 12/31/88	1,798,000	1,400	1,796,600
As of 12/31/89	1,806,500	1,400	1,805,100
As of 12/31/90	1,815,000	1,400	1,813,600
As of 12/31/91	1,823,500	1,400	1,822,100
As of 12/31/92	1,832,000	1,400	1,830,600
As of 12/31/93	1,840,500	1,400	1,839,100
As of 12/31/94	1,849,000	1,400	1,847,600
As of 12/31/95	1,857,500	1,400	1,856,100
As of 12/31/96	1,866,000	1,400	1,864,600
As of 12/31/97	1,874,500	1,400	1,873,100
As of 12/31/98	1,883,000	1,400	1,881,600
As of 12/31/99	1,891,500	1,400	1,890,100
As of 12/31/00	1,900,000	1,400	1,898,600
As of 12/31/01	1,908,500	1,400	1,907,100
As of 12/31/02	1,917,000	1,400	1,915,600
As of 12/31/03	1,925,500	1,400	1,924,100
As of 12/31/04	1,934,000	1,400	1,932,600
As of 12/31/05	1,942,500	1,400	1,941,100
As of 12/31/06	1,951,000	1,400	1,949,600
As of 12/31/07	1,959,500	1,400	1,958,100
As of 12/31/08	1,968,000	1,400	1,966,600
As of 12/31/09	1,976,500	1,400	1,975,100
As of 12/31/10	1,985,000	1,400	1,983,600
As of 12/31/11	1,993,500	1,400	1,992,100
As of 12/31/12	2,002,000	1,400	2,000,600
As of 12/31/13	2,010,500	1,400	2,009,100
As of 12/31/14	2,019,000	1,400	2,017,600
As of 12/31/15	2,		



[illegible]



## Shares struggle, gilts higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602
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## 36 RACING

# Celtic Swing can rise to Chantilly challenge

By JULIAN MUSCAT

IN NORMAL circumstances a liberal dose of British horse would accompany Celtic Swing to the post for the Prix du Jockey-Club, the French Derby, at Chantilly tomorrow. The race has proved notoriously difficult to wrest from the home team for expectations to run too high.

All that changes tomorrow. England expects for the first time in living memory, a horse with a winning chance at Epsom has instead been diverted to France. And the 11 opponents ranged against Celtic Swing share one common trait.

Were their animals up to the task, the trainers of Rifaour, Affidavit, Flémensfirth, Winged Love, Diamond Mix, Walk On Mix, Poliglote and Fifty Four would all be finalising plans to compete at Epsom. That leaves two British-trained optimists in Commoner and Indian Light, and Classic Cliche, who was not entered for the Derby and cannot be supplemented.

Doubtless Peter Savill, whose ruminations over Celtic Swing have caused him such anguish, would not quite see it that way. But the fact remains the Aga Khan, Sheikh Mohammed, André Fabre and Crique Head would readily swap the structured elegance of Chantilly for a roller-coaster ride round Epsom.

That is why nothing less than a handsome victory will do. Conditions should be in Celtic Swing's favour, both in terms of the track and in the way the race will unfold. The executive at Chantilly will have watered the course overnight should the forecast showers fail to materialise. And, with the help of Fifty Four, his pacemaker, Poliglote is to be the target at which Celtic Swing will take aim.

Fabre, who saddles four runners, believes Diamond Mix has the best public form. However, he is concerned his Prix Greffulhe winner might

lack the stamina for a group one prize over 12 furlongs. By the miller. Linamix, from a mare by Persian Bold, Fabre's reservations over Diamond Mix are not difficult to fathom. Other fancied runners harbours suspect reserves of stamina include Walk On Mix, Flémensfirth and Classic Cliche. The latter, winner of the Dante Stakes, represents Godolphin, whose runners in big races have performed so well since returning from a winter in Dubai.

Classic Cliche, a rugged individual, was supplemented to the French classic on Thursday. He possesses good early speed and has prospects of a place. But in Rifaour and Poliglote, Celtic Swing faces two opponents who lack nothing for stamina in addition to a smattering of class. Rifaour gained a narrow verdict when the pair clashed over this trip in the Prix Hocquet. He has more scope, and probably more stomach for the fight.

Poliglote had a desperately hard race in bottomless ground on his final juvenile start. But if that has left its mark, Rifaour's enthusiasm should know no bounds. Lightly-raced, he has won his last three starts and has the potential to make a race of it with Celtic Swing.

Kevin Darley, Celtic Swing's regular jockey, will be riding Chantilly for the first time. That should prove academic, given the horse's aggressive style of racing. If, as expected, the Lady Herriest-trained colt reels in Poliglote before drawing right away from his field, Savill will not permit himself to dwell on what might have been.

On the same card, Torrential and Annus Mirabilis represent Britain in the group one Prix Jean Prat. Both colts will have to run above themselves to master the Fabre-trained Bobinski. A half-brother to Old Vic, he is reportedly the apple of his trainer's eye.



Classic Cliche throws his weight behind a powerful British raid on Chantilly

## CHANTILLY FIELDS TOMORROW

GOING: GOOD

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

### 3.15 LES EMIRATES ARABES UNIS

PRINX DU JOCKEY-CLUB (Group 1, 5-y-o colts and fillies; £299,401; 1m 4f) (12 runners)

- 1 (1) 111 RIFAOUR 28 (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 2 (2) 111 AFFIDAVIT 34 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 3 (3) 111 FLEMENSFIRTH 21 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 4 (4) 111 WINGED LOVE 38 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 5 (5) 111 CLASSIC CLICHE 18 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 6 (6) 111 DIAMOND MIX 42 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 7 (7) 111 WALK ON MIX 48 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 8 (8) 111 COMMONER 22 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 9 (9) 111 POLIGLOTE 28 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 10 (10) 111 RIFAOUR 28 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 11 (11) 111 AFFIDAVIT 34 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 12 (12) 111 FLEMENSFIRTH 21 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2.

4.40 PRINX DU JOCKEY-CLUB (Group 1, 5-y-o colts and fillies; £299,401; 1m 4f) (12 runners)

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- 1 (1) 111 RIFAOUR 28 (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 2 (2) 111 AFFIDAVIT 34 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 3 (3) 111 FLEMENSFIRTH 21 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 4 (4) 111 WINGED LOVE 38 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 5 (5) 111 CLASSIC CLICHE 18 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 6 (6) 111 DIAMOND MIX 42 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 7 (7) 111 WALK ON MIX 48 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 8 (8) 111 COMMONER 22 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 9 (9) 111 POLIGLOTE 28 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 10 (10) 111 RIFAOUR 28 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 11 (11) 111 AFFIDAVIT 34 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2. 12 (12) 111 FLEMENSFIRTH 21 (D.B.S.) (D.B.S.) M. Agnès A. de la Roche 5-2-2.

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# New-look England in fresh challenge



**Rob Hughes welcomes Japan to Wembley hoping that their first visit will inspire the home nation**

THERE is something new under the rising sun. Today, at Wembley, in the first match of the Umbro Cup, four men of England wear their national shirt for the first time. Stan Collymore, Gary Neville, John Scales and David Unsworth, all believe that this will be their chance of a lifetime.

But there is something beyond mere players aspiring to the call of Wembley Stadium. This is something I have yearned for, coming to the stadium of the mother country of football, since I began playing the game in my school in 1937.

Thus speaks Kiichi Miyazawa, the former prime minister of Japan and a leading figure in the political fundraising behind Japan's bid to host the 2002 World Cup. We may observe that our new

stadium into which administrators and players from a far-off land come from a land which is building 15 stadia fit for the 21st century.

Perhaps they will see a fine game, belying the fact that the Umbro Cup is an end-of-season junkie, one for which England has found 14 players either too tired, too injured, or too emotionally spent to join in. Perhaps we will catch from them the feeling that something special, something almost mystical, is afoot.

The first disappointment, particularly to visitors following the week's hype, is that yet another Cascoigne fresh beginning has disappeared into a false start. All week, and not for the first time, Terry Venables, the England coach, has encouraged the media's fascination with Cascoigne. The fact that he does not start the game today may suggest one of three things.

Maybe the coach is saving the star for the big one, the final game of this four-nation tournament, against Brazil next weekend. Alternatively, maybe Venables has seen, in training, why the Lazio coach was so reluctant to play Cascoigne after another year out to another serious injury. Thirdly, and heaven forbid the enunciation of cynicism, maybe all of those press photographs had something to do with the box office.

Whatever the reason, the absence of the main crowd-pleaser is assuaged somewhat by the curiosity of seeing new blood. Neville, the Manchester United right back, began his season in the reserves against Halifax and, despite youthful impetuosity in the tackle, he displays a mobile style of counter-attacking well beyond his 20 years.

## UMBRO CUP

**TODAY**  
England v Japan (Wembley, 2.0)  
**TOMORROW**  
Brazil v Sweden (Wembley, 4.0)  
**JUNE 6**  
Japan v Brazil (Wembley, 5.0)  
**JUNE 8**  
England v Sweden (Wembley, 2.0)  
**JUNE 10**  
Sweden v Japan (Wembley, 2.0)  
**JUNE 11**  
England v Brazil (Wembley, 4.0)

**ENGLAND** (v Japan today): 4-3-1-2-1  
Flowers (Blackburn Rovers) — G. Neville (Manchester United), J. Scales (Liverpool), D. Unsworth (Everton), S. Pearce (Wolverhampton Wanderers), D. Anderson (Tottenham Hotspur), D. Batty (Blackburn Rovers), D. Platt (Sheff Wed) — P. Beardsley (Sheff Wed), S. Collymore (Nottingham Forest), A. Shearer (Blackburn Rovers). Substitutes: to be named.

visitors, who have never played against England much less visited the still mystical shrine of Wembley, have managed to survive over 2,500 years of culture without taking seriously to our national sport; but here they are, with players including Kazuyoshi Miura, players of the first generation of Japanese professionals, multi-millionaires in the first flush of their country's obsession with football.

We welcome them almost with embarrassment. There is a wish to hide the out-moded nature of the old stadium, a



Platt, the England captain, and Venables, the coach, discuss the size of the task confronting England this afternoon

of Collymore. His career has been so fitful, so misunderstood, and is now so much relished that clubs are preparing to bid \$8.5 million for him. At 14 stone, he may look like a juggernaut on legs to the visiting Japanese, few of whom will have opposed any self-centred athlete, quite so well-versed in pursuit of goals.

If, rather than apprehension, one wished to bring a smile to Japanese faces, it was there yesterday when the players were informed that Gary Lineker, some kind of a god in their country, observed that a three or four-goal defeat would be reasonable and re-

spectable to the Japanese. Lineker singles out the obvious exception, Miura, a forward born in Japan, schooled in football in Brazil and, in one of the most cynical and bogus transfers of all time, loaned by his Japanese club to Genoa in Italy this season.

Alas, Miura ran into the elbow of Franco Baresi in his very first match, broke his nose and damaged an eye socket and never quite recaptured the appetite or confidence to show the Italians that he was more than a sponsorship exchange deal.

Shu Kamuro, the relatively new manager of Japan and a

man intent on a fast, counter-attacking style, confesses that his players are nervous, that the result is less important to them than the experience, that the £500,000 first prize for the Umbro Cup is not really an aspiration for his team.

Who, then, will win the booty? The bookmakers make England odds-on favourite, even an England so short of familiar figures that Venables's wishful hope of bedding down a European championship side at this tournament has long disappeared.

Brazil, as always, will bring talents we have not seen before nor anticipated. They

will have to, for when they start against Sweden, at Aston Villa tomorrow, the Brazilians will have available only three of the 1994 world champions — defender Gorginho, and midfielders Dunga and Zinho. Sweden arrive in a state of shock. The Swedes, who twice pushed Brazil to the limits during the last World Cup, could only draw 1-1 against Iceland on Thursday.

Let us, nevertheless, share the sense of anticipation of at least one visiting nation. To the Japanese, we say: "Yokoso soccer no bokoku e. Welcome to the mother country of soccer."

## Ageless Robson ripe for fresh challenge

By Rob Hughes



Robson: enthusiastic

AT THE age of 62, when most men's thoughts turn to pensionable pleasures, Bobby Robson is up in the air, pondering the decision of a lifetime. He flies between Highbury and Oporto, deciding between a reported £2 million offer to be the Arsenal director of football for the next five years, or honouring the remaining year on his £400,000 contract with FC Porto, the club he has just led to the Portuguese championship.

Five years ago, listening to the cruel tongues which suggested that "Robson's indecision is final", England dispensed with his services as manager. Having lost in the quarter-finals of the 1986 World Cup to the "hand of God", having lost the penalty shoot-out in the 1990 World Cup semi-final, England thus dispensed with the man in charge, and dispensed with the problems of participating at World Cups altogether.

Robson moved on, too, to successive championships in Holland with PSV Eindhoven, then to be wickedly dismissed while leading the Portuguese league with Sporting Lisbon, and then to his present abode, taking a young and stylish Porto to the title.

How interesting that this man who transmits such a zest for the game, whose appetite for the "stress" of the profession is undiminished, should be so coveted in his homeland, where he has not worked at club level for 13 years, and where 13 managers in the FA Carling Premiership have been removed in the past nine months.

Arsenal, if the leak is correct, appear to believe that a change from the English to the continental style of management is paramount. Good for them. Robson has worked as a coach, or to use the putative Arsenal title, a director of football, free of the shackles of office work and of the temptations that have led some managers to corrupt transfer dealings. He makes it known that

wherever he works for the rest of his days, he intends wearing a tracksuit, and while this would not rule out working about Stewart Houston, Robson is absolutely right to insist that his value is on the training field.

But why should a man so highly paid, so revered abroad, forsake what he himself described recently as an idyllic lifestyle, to return to the shark-infested waters of English management? There are challenges in both countries. With Porto, a team already bearing his stamp, there is the anticipation of the Champions' League in Europe. With Arsenal, there is the chance to fill a fallen institution, to manage a club bigger than any in England that has come Robson's way before, and it would seem, to bring home some of the lessons of European thinking and working in the game.

The Porto president, Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa, is returning to the club on Monday. Whether or not there is a release clause that would allow Robson

to go to Arsenal, the president insists that his man must stay.

Meanwhile, Robson visited an old and trusted friend at the England training camp at Bisham Abbey yesterday. He spoke at length to Don Howe, his assistant during eight years as the England manager, and a former Arsenal manager to boot. Doubtless he will also consult his wife, Elsie, who just might relish the prospect of returning to live closer to the grandchildren.

But, ultimately, the decision will be his. Revealingly, he said barely two months ago: "I have a wonderful life in Portugal with a good team, a marvelous club and an appreciative president. But I am aware that should I lose three or four games on the run, I would lose my job."

What makes Robson such a wanted man is the amalgam of almost boyish enthusiasm with the years of accumulated knowledge. "Ripeness," wrote the Bard in *King Lear*, "is all."

## Depleted Irish rely on simple qualifier

FROM PETER BALL IN LIECHTENSTEIN

VADUZ may not be one of the great centres of world football, but nestled under the Alps, it is one of the most stunning settings. Jack Charlton, the Ireland manager, however, is more concerned with points than with spectacular scenery, knowing that victories over Liechtenstein this afternoon and Austria tomorrow week will virtually guarantee his side's qualification for the European championship finals next summer.

"Two victories would leave Northern Ireland and Austria with a lot of work to do," Charlton said yesterday. "It would mean that Northern Ireland would need to win in Portugal or Austria to win in Belfast and neither of those results look likely."

Ireland should find that the part of the equation they face today is resolved easily enough. Liechtenstein are playing in their first competitive tournament, and went down 4-0 in Dublin when Ireland gave one of their poorest displays. Football is not one of the winter sports readily associated with the principality.

But perhaps it is fortunate for Ireland that the opposition is weak, for they are likely to be without both their first-choice central midfield play-

ers. Roy Keane had a hernia operation on Tuesday and is not with the party. The ankle injury to the captain, Andy Townsend, seems certain to rule him out and to compound matters. Ray Houghton is also facing a race to fit.

"We will give Ray as long as possible," Charlton said. "If he does not make it, Geoff Kenna who has had an eventful end to the season, moving from Southampton's struggle against relegation in time to take part in Blackburn's run-in to the championship, will step up for his first start in a full international."

Kenna may play anyway, in Townsend's place. With Houghton moving inside should Charlton decide to overlook the claims of Jason McAteer and Ronnie Whelan. Either way, Ireland should win and give Charlton the start to the week that he wants, enabling him to look forward to a summer's fishing without the pressures of a year ago in America.

At Tosh McKinlay, the Celtic defender, will meet up with the rest of the Scotland squad for the first time today after being drafted in as cover for the European championship qualifier against the Faroe Islands which takes place on Wednesday.

# FOR THE RECORD

## ATHLETICS

### SAINT-DENIS, Paris: International meeting, 100m: G. Gray (USA) 10.19sec; 200m: F. Fredericks (Trinidad) 20.41sec; 400m: C. Smith (USA) 48.11sec; 800m: S. Smith (USA) 1:59.00; 1,500m: J. Shabazz (USA) 3:59.00; 3,000m: S. Smith (USA) 7:59.00; 5,000m: S. Smith (USA) 16:39.00; 10,000m: S. Smith (USA) 33:59.00; 20,000m: S. Smith (USA) 67:59.00; 30,000m: S. Smith (USA) 101:59.00; 40,000m: S. Smith (USA) 135:59.00; 50,000m: S. Smith (USA) 169:59.00; 60,000m: S. Smith (USA) 203:59.00; 70,000m: S. Smith (USA) 237:59.00; 80,000m: S. Smith (USA) 271:59.00; 90,000m: S. Smith (USA) 305:59.00; 100,000m: S. Smith (USA) 339:59.00; 110,000m: S. Smith (USA) 373:59.00; 120,000m: S. Smith (USA) 407:59.00; 130,000m: S. Smith (USA) 441:59.00; 140,000m: S. Smith (USA) 475:59.00; 150,000m: S. Smith (USA) 509:59.00; 160,000m: S. Smith (USA) 543:59.00; 170,000m: S. Smith (USA) 577:59.00; 180,000m: S. Smith (USA) 611:59.00; 190,000m: S. Smith (USA) 645:59.00; 200,000m: S. Smith (USA) 679:59.00; 210,000m: S. Smith (USA) 713:59.00; 220,000m: S. Smith (USA) 747:59.00; 230,000m: S. Smith (USA) 781:59.00; 240,000m: S. Smith (USA) 815:59.00; 250,000m: S. Smith (USA) 849:59.00; 260,000m: S. Smith (USA) 883:59.00; 270,000m: S. Smith (USA) 917:59.00; 280,000m: S. Smith (USA) 951:59.00; 290,000m: S. Smith (USA) 985:59.00; 300,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1019:59.00; 310,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1053:59.00; 320,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1087:59.00; 330,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1121:59.00; 340,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1155:59.00; 350,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1189:59.00; 360,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1223:59.00; 370,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1257:59.00; 380,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1291:59.00; 390,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1325:59.00; 400,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1359:59.00; 410,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1393:59.00; 420,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1427:59.00; 430,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1461:59.00; 440,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1495:59.00; 450,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1529:59.00; 460,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1563:59.00; 470,000m: S. Smith (USA) 1597:59.00; 480,000m: S. 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Saturday portrait: Paul Gascoigne, by Andrew Longmore...

## England awaits next chapter of football's modern morality tale

Paul Gascoigne has just turned 28 and we are still waiting. Will it be today in the unlikely setting of an international against Japan, though the best he can hope for is a place on the substitutes' bench? Will it be next week against the Swedes or the Brazilians? Or next season with, most probably, Glasgow Rangers and in the European championships that we see, at last, what Gascoigne can really do? The wait has been long and frustrating, not least for Gascoigne himself, who has a bulging balance at the bank but a slim portfolio of achievement to show for a decade of hype, angst and sporadic brilliance. Even his one treasured medal, from the FA Cup of 1991, was delivered to his bedside wrapped in self-inflicted pain and controversy. Paul Gascoigne and Gazza, the inseparable twins.

The latest vision of Gascoigne came to Bisham Abbey last week. This one looked like an extra in a Fellini film, dyed blond hair, thin, gaunt face, the naive charm of the Geordie lad long since replaced by the wariness of permanent stardom. This one talked of feeling like a young kid, though his eyes said different, of being hungry for success, of wanting to prove himself and then, aware that his audience had heard it all before, added the words "once again" to his sentence in an explicit and telling acknowledgment that even cats only have nine lives.

In the morning, a posse of cameramen had followed his every move, and Gascoigne, encased in a nylon training top, had run and harried like an apprentice, not an old lad of 29 caps. Is it only 29? Just once he showed the something "extra" that Terry Venables, his long-time mentor and now England coach, has called for. A twist of the hips, a change of feet, a sudden, menacing, shift of balance, grace allied to power, a moment to explain why so many have invested so much for so long and why Gascoigne remains one of the few still able to part a neutral from his entrance fee.

Gascoigne's career is a kaleidoscope of such moments, a collec-

tion of old photos found in a dark corner of the attic, snapshots of a modern morality tale. Gascoigne receiving the 1990 BBC sports personality of the year award, all charm and smiles, then being sent off a few days later for hurling abuse at a referee. Gascoigne playing football with one of his team-mate's children at the end of a Lazio training session. Gascoigne the good Samaritan, Gazza the self-confessed girlfriend beater. Gascoigne wiping the tears from his eyes during the World Cup semi-final in 1990. Gazza answering a reporter's question with a hearty belch. The album is full, but the narrative is hazy and the truth tinted. Which is Gascoigne, which is Gazza?

In the geography of Gascoigne's life, there are precious few compass points. Gascoigne was born on May 27, 1967, and he was born

**'Nobody is sure just how good a player Gascoigne was or is, let alone how good he could be'**

to play football, nothing more, nothing less. Gascoigne has never tried to pretend anything different, however much others have tried to build him up into something more profound, a plaything for the chattering classes as well as fodder for the tabloids.

Gascoigne's football says more about the man than any amount of psychoanalysis. The joy, the freedom, the exuberance, the craziness, the crudity, it is all right out there on the field. The problem is that since he left Newcastle United for Tottenham Hotspur a few weeks after his 21st birthday, there has been too much talk and not enough football. Nobody is sure just how good a player Gascoigne was or is, let alone how good he could be.

In terms of goals, he has never bettered the time he scored in his first full season in the league for

Newcastle, in 1985-86. He lifted Tottenham single-handedly to the FA Cup Final in 1991, then threw it away in a crazy challenge in the opening minutes at Wembley, and his strike-rate for England, six goals in 29 games, does not bear out the extravagant claims made of his genius as an attacking midfielder.

What has marked Gascoigne out from the rest, apart from hints of a sublime talent, has been his ability to communicate his passion for the game in the universal language of the terraces. For all the broken promise of his three years at Lazio, his mere six goals in 41 games, and his cringing lack of grace, Gascoigne, the touchable hero with the street urchin's soul, was still revered in the upper tiers of the Olympic Stadium in Rome, just as he was at St James' Park and White Hart Lane.

No, whatever else has changed in his life, Gascoigne's love of football has not. He still plays as if expecting to see coats on the ground instead of goalposts. There are no other ways of explaining how a man notorious for his personal indiscipline should show such profound willpower in returning from two injuries — a torn cruciate ligament in 1991 and a broken leg a year ago — which would have finished less courageous players. His ebullience has proved priceless and costly, as both injuries were, to an extent, self-inflicted.

But there must have been many days, sitting in his splendid villa high above Rome, when he wondered quite how a life that once seemed so simple had suddenly turned so difficult. Perhaps it was the fault of those around him or the managers he served, most of whom understood the talent of the footballer but not quite the insecurity of the man.

Even after Gascoigne's inspiration and Linaker's goals had lifted an ordinary England team to the verge of the 1990 World Cup final, it seemed that Bobby Robson did not fully trust Gascoigne — "daft as a brush" was the manager's phrase — while Graham Taylor, Robson's successor as England manager, was building the whole



team round him one moment and chastising him for lack of personal discipline the next.

At Lazio, the chain-smoking, unsmiling Dino Zoff was alternately mesmerised and exasperated by the mad-dog Englishman, and when he went, his replacement, Zdenek Zeman, the Czech coach, wanted Gascoigne to play on the left side of midfield. At least Venables has found the right balance, praising Gascoigne to the skies for his powers of recovery,

acknowledging his extraordinary skills, but refusing to reconstruct a team for him. The understanding augurs well for the future of England and Gascoigne. Better, surely, than his proposed move to Glasgow, to one of the most physical leagues in Europe and one of the hardest partying cities in the land which, given the Jekyll within called Gazza, the monster with the uncanny eye for self-destruction, seems about as sensible as handing the keys

of the drinks cabinet to an alcoholic.

Yet it is a tribute to Gascoigne's enduring attraction at the box office, never mind the quality of his football, that Rangers are prepared to gamble more than £4 million on a hunch that the best of Gascoigne might yet be to come, and there will be plenty on both sides of the border willing to set aside traditional antipathies to hope they are right. Gascoigne might have made a fortune, but he

deserves a change of one, too. It might just be that the new Gascoigne unveiled at Bisham Abbey last week is a wiser, more mature version of the original, the one who revealed once that the most outrageous item of clothing in his wardrobe was a luminous green tie with a woman holding a glass of champagne above the words: "The road to ruin." Perhaps, this time, the sign at the crossroads will point the way to fulfilment instead.

## Blowing the whistle on youthful ball-tampering

THERE were still 35 minutes to go, the score was 1-1, and Mbawala Rising Stars and Eagles Youth were going at each other hammer and tongs in this under-14 match in the heart of Lilongwe. And then it all stopped dead. The ball had punctured. Play could not go on.

A furious official, who "acted like he owned the ball" according to the Malawi newspaper, *The Democrat*, at once instigated an impromptu inspection of the ball. But no offender could be found. It was as well: draconian punishments lie ahead for the inadvertent ball-puncturers of the Lilongwe under-14 league.

Replacement of the ball is only one possible penalty: the ball-puncturer also faces immediate suspension from the league.

The puncture was not the only point of interest in the game. One of the team coaches tried to argue for a playing condition that gave you a penalty for every four corners won. Nice idea. His opposite number wanted to make six substitutions "because there is no way some people will just go back home without playing. We will have problems back home. They must all play." Mind you, a number of players disappeared at half-time to buy ices, and came back to find themselves substituted.

There was plenty of action out on the pitch, too. To quote *The Democrat* again: "The ball was being chased wildly as all the players heaped themselves to wherever it rolled. At one point the ground looked empty as they all scrambled for the ball in the corner. A huge cloud of dust arose from that side, engulfing and concealing all the players."

Warmest greetings from this column to all Malawian under-14 footballers, and warm thanks to R. Pollard, who sent me the cutting. This column has not had a goal of the week for some weeks, so I had better have a letter of the week instead. So R. Pollard gets a bottle of summer joys, otherwise known as



**SIMON BARNES**  
On Saturday

Château de Sours, otherwise known as grown-up rose. Other bottles of pink delight available throughout the summer to other letters of the week.

### Iced octopus

When you go to watch the Detroit Red Wings play ice hockey, be sure to take a dead octopus. Detroit have now reached the semi-finals of the Stanley Cup, American ice hockey's grail, and the octopuses are raining onto the ice. The idea is that the eight tentacles symbolise the eight



wins that are needed to win the cup. At the Red Wings' last victory, 20 octopuses ended up on the ice.

"I had seven in my hands at one time," Al Sabotka, the arena supervisor, said. They have sent out a special request to supporters: would you please boil your octopus before slinging them onto the ice? That will help to keep down the smell and keep the slime off the ice.

Besides, as Kevin Dean, owner of a Detroit fish shop called Mr Octopus, said: "When you boil them, they bounce better."

### Shelling out

In Rio, they have been taking live animals to matches. At the game last weekend between Flamengo and Vasco da Gama, Flamengo supporters wanted to celebrate the arrival of their new signing, Edmundo, who is nicknamed — yes — "the animal". So hundreds of supporters turned up with dogs, many of them wearing Flamengo shirts and hats — and clearly terrified in the hurry-burly of a Brazilian football crowd, as would be any rational being.

Special outrage was reserved for one group that carried a large tortoise painted in Flamengo colours, and waved the poor beast about a good deal. Now supporters have been told they face arrest if they try to get into a football ground with a live animal. "The place for native fauna is in the wild," a spokesman for Brazil's environment agency said.

### Bullish words

While on the subject of animals, we had better take on the rugby union World Cup. Australia, eager to get their retaliation in long before the opening of hostilities — they are likely to play England in the quarter-finals tomorrow week — printed some tasteful stuff from the great David Campese in the official programme for England's match against Italy on Wednesday.

It does not represent Campese's most thoughtful output. "Carling himself epitomises England's lack of skills," he said. "He has speed and bulk but plays like a castrated bull." Tush! A gratuitous insult. Will Carling must be furious. In fact, I think he should get his pals in the Rugby Football Union to ban Campese for life.

## Dual role occupies Pinsent and Redgrave

BY MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

MOST of Britain's top heavyweight men will compete in the Hazewinkel International Regatta this weekend, the only notable absentee being the senior coxed four, withdrawn at the last moment due to an injury to Richard Hamilton. Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent will race as the lead boat in the coxed pairs and will also double up in a coxed four with their Leander Club colleagues, Laird Reid and Jo Michels, of the United States.

They used the same procedure successfully in Mannheim two weeks ago, clocking times close to world records in both events. Michels, however, caused controversy in the Oxford University Summer Eights last week by racing unexpectedly in the Pembroke crew, which toppled Oriol from the Headship.

The British eight that produced such an impressive start to the season with two gold medals in Piediluco a month ago, now has Sean Bowden as their new coach. Bowden was among those responsible for Cambridge's revival until 1994. He will be aiming to consolidate their position against crews from Italy, France and Ukraine. There is also a possibility that Australia may take part.

Still to make their mark this year are the 1994 world championships bronze medal-winners at coxed four, Jon and Greg Searle, Tim Foster and Rupert Obholzer.

They failed to stay on the pace in Piediluco, looking distinctly rusty, and kept away from Essen two weeks ago to concentrate on training for the class field they have to take on in Belgium, including the 1994 gold and silver medal-winners from Italy and France. The Searles, however, have a habit of producing quiet performances before going into the main events of the year.

Terry O'Neill, Britain's sculling coach, perseveres with Rob Thatcher and James Cracknell, both former junior gold medal-winners, in the double but will try out a new quad.

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A passionate encounter is forecast for Johannesburg as Celts battle for place in quarter-finals

# Wales's away form augurs well for clash with Ireland

FROM GERALD DAVIES IN JOHANNESBURG

SO, IT has finally come to this. Wales and Ireland play tomorrow afternoon at Ellis Park, Johannesburg, to determine which of them continues on the passage onwards in the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Not that there should be surprise at this outcome. It was not unheralded.

Once Wales had successfully negotiated their long steep climb through the pre-qualifying and qualifying rounds and joined Ireland in pool C, both were predicted to take the low fence of Japan but not the high one of New Zealand and, with these events having come to pass, the race for second place is on.

With an eye on present form, that much was widely foreseen. It was based on a practical assessment. But from now on you might as well peer into your crystal ball to forecast what happens next. Or resort, in these agonising days, to life-sustaining humour. An Irishman, in his team's hotel, upon being asked what to expect, replied that he anticipated to see Ireland home at 20/14.

Prompted for an explanation, he said: "That's the air flight departure time back to Ireland on Monday."

An Irish supporter, more waggish in his view of rugby's place in the scheme of things, can do this, while his Welsh counterpart is more circumspect and fearful. It is more serious for him. He knows full well that were his team to fail it would be for the second time in two World Cup tournaments that they return home without reaching the quarter-final stage. This failure would be hard for him to bear.

The last time these two

countries met was in the five nations' championship in Cardiff in March, when Wales lost. But then that might not account for much, since Wales have grown accustomed to not winning there since 1983. As Robert Jones, who wins his 54th cap at scrum half and is now one short of the Welsh record of 55 held by J.P.R. Williams, pointed out: "The weight of expectation is so intense for the fixture nowadays in Cardiff. I feel more relaxed in playing away from there."

Statistics support his contention. Of the last seven matches played away from

sphere and which, so far, appears to be accentuated here.

To attempt to close this quality gap will not be a matter to dominate the minds of players tomorrow. This is one-off. The prize is too great to allow any consideration other than to follow the primary quest of resolving the conflict as to who deserves to continue to remain in South Africa.

Whoever wins will continue in European mode, for they will play the winners of the encounter today between Scotland and France. This is perceived as not so daunting a prospect as facing someone from south of the Equator.

The feeling exists that man-for-man Wales are stronger than Ireland. But, as has been made so patently clear in recent years, this is no proper indicator that they will function better as a team.

They looked more competent against Japan than did Ireland, whose secret weapon was found, again according to the Irish humourist, to be much in evidence, to wit, the penalty try, of which they scored two. Wales expanded the game more. Wales had their good moments against the All Blacks which gave signs of promise, but they were too few. In any case, they accumulated only three penalties, whereas Ireland scored three tries.

"We played well for the first 15 minutes against New Zealand," Alex Evans, the Wales coach, said. "But we did not keep a tight grip on them for long enough and between then and the interval we allowed them to dominate and so win the game in that period. We came back with fortitude in the second half. It was no disgrace."

"Ireland will be different. They will be charged with passion. They are a competitive outfit, they attack and keep on doing so in a mad dog sort of way. We will need to keep our composure for 80 minutes."

After the ten changes made between the Japan and New Zealand matches and the many words employed to explain them, though not entirely with conviction, this, as the crisis moment arrives, is thought to be Wales's strongest combination.

A win matters for both countries; however, rugby meaning what it does to the nation, it matters more for Wales. Today is the day their players have to prove it.

## RUGBY WORLD CUP

home, Wales have won six. This includes the encounter in the first World Cup in Wellington, New Zealand. The score then was 13-6. Everyone must hope that the quality of play, so demoralising then, will be more flattering to both sides tomorrow and will be achieved in a generous and purposeful mood.

The corresponding game in 1987 was one of two that failed miserably to set the pulse racing in the way other matches did. The other was Wales against England, which further emphasised at the time the gap that existed between northern and southern hemi-

### JOHANNESBURG TEAMS

#### IRELAND

C M P O'Shea (Lansdowne)  
R Wallace (Garryowen)  
B J Mullin (Blackrock Coll)  
J C Bell (Ballymena)  
S P Geoghegan (Bath)  
E Elwood (Lansdowne)  
N A Hogan (Terenure Coll)  
N J Poppellwell (Wassps)  
T Kingston (Dolphin)  
G Hephin (London Irish)  
D McBride (Malone)  
G Fitcher (Cork Const)  
N J P Francis (Old Belvedere)  
D Corkery (Cork Const)  
P S Johns (Dungannon)

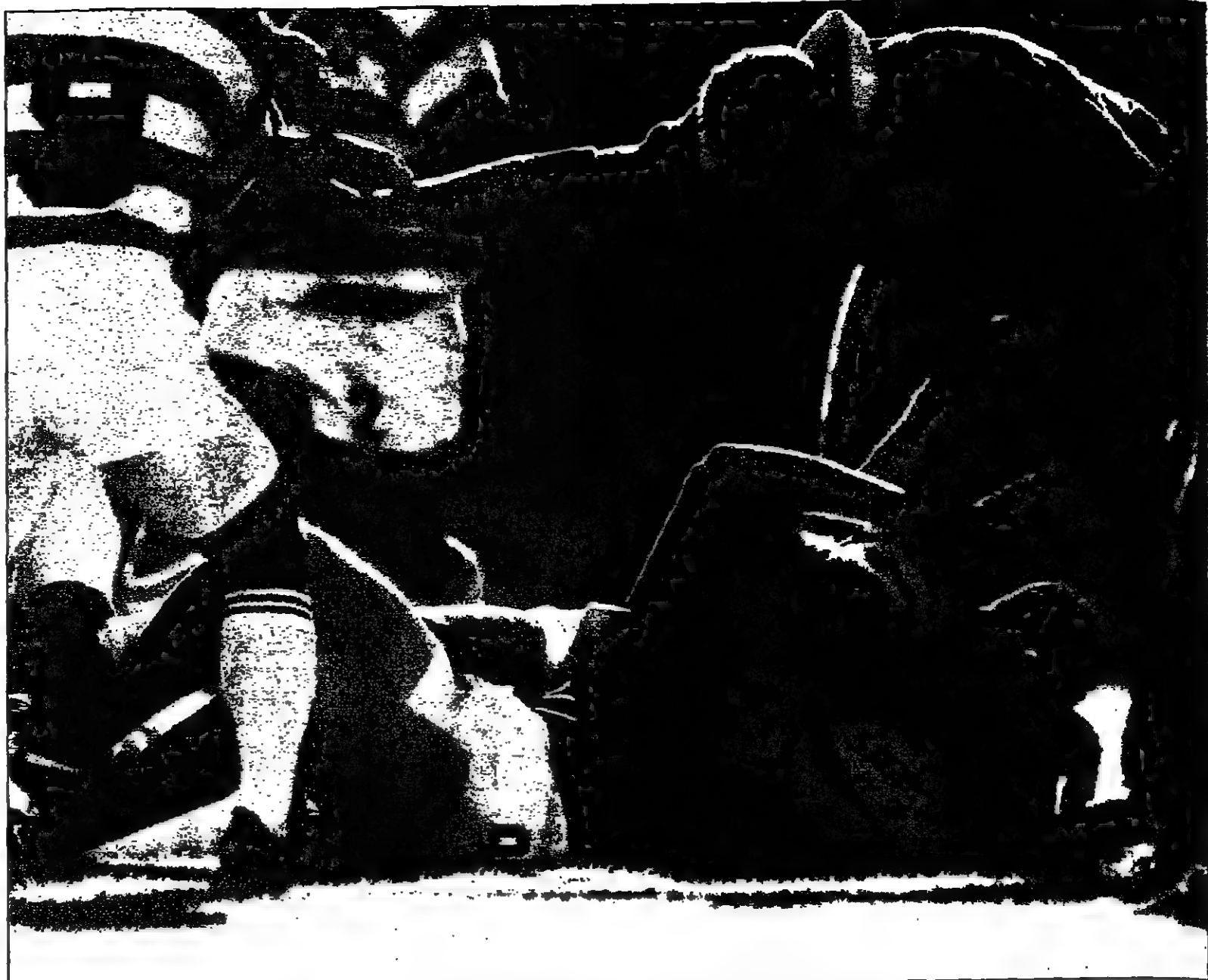
Replacements: 16 P Danaher (Garryowen), 17 P Burke (Cork Const), 18 M Bradley (Cork Const), 19 E Halvey (Shannon), 20 P Wallace (Blackrock), 21 S Byrne (Blackrock).

#### WALES

T Clement (Swansea)  
J Evans (Llanelli)  
M Hall (Cardiff)  
N Jenkins (Pontypridd)  
G Thomas (Bridgend)  
A Davies (Cardiff)  
R Jones (Swansea)  
M Griffiths (Cardiff)  
J Humphries (Cardiff)  
J Davies (Neath)  
S Davies (Swansea)  
G Llewellyn (Neath)  
D Jones (Cardiff)  
H Taylor (Cardiff)  
E Lewis (Cardiff)

\* captain

Replacements: 16 W Proctor (Llanelli), 17 D Evans (Treorchy), 18 A Moore (Cardiff), 19 S Roy (Cardiff), 20 R Evans (Llanelli), 21 G Jenkins (Swansea).



Hogan, who has been preferred to the experienced Bradley, is brought down to earth in Ireland's victory over Japan on Wednesday

## Smooth operation required of Hogan

John Hopkins talks to the trainee surgeon selected at scrum half by Ireland to provide a cutting edge in the crucial meeting with Wales

How about this for a good 72 hours? Soon after breakfast yesterday, Niall Hogan was the centre of attention at Ireland's hotel after learning he had been selected to play against Wales tomorrow afternoon in the match that will decide whether Ireland or Wales go through to the quarter-finals of the World Cup. "Naturally, I'm delighted," Hogan, a scrum half, said. "I didn't feel I had a great game against Japan on Wednesday so I was not sure I would be picked."

This morning, a moving ceremony tinged with a little pomp will take place in the same hotel in Johannesburg. In front of his parents, his team-mates, the Irish Ambassador to South Africa and other officials, Hogan will be handed a roll of parchment bound by a coloured ribbon conferring him with his honours medical degree from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Since Hogan has spent the past six years of his life dividing most of his time between his medical studies and his rugby, it is a pleasant conjunction of his two main interests that sees him receive his degree on the eve of the most important rugby match of his life. Hogan may not be the first to participate in such a ceremony but he surely is the first to do so with a staple over his right eye, a relic of a knock he received in the game against Japan. The smallest and lightest member of the Ireland team he may be, but from now on you can call him doctor.

It will be Hogan's fourth cap. He made his debut against England on a stormy day last January. It cannot have been much fun as he, standing 5ft 8in and weighing 11½ stone, faced up to Dean Richards, Tim Rodber and Ben Clarke, England's 16-

stone plus back-row mastodons. "That was a very tough day," Hogan recalled. "The English are very powerful and they dominated us up front that day. Their pack was awesome. On top of that, there was a gale-force wind blowing and a constant drizzle. I did not enjoy it very much."

Against Wales in Cardiff two months later, Hogan enjoyed himself more. Ireland won and he played better. But just as there are those who prefer Paul Burke at stand-off half to Eric Elwood, so there remains a faction in Ireland who support Michael Bradley, long in the tooth and limited though he is, over Hogan. Sources inside the Ireland camp suggest that in the early hours of Friday morning the selectors had plumped for Bradley, who had played against New Zealand a week earlier. Apparent-

ly, a meeting over breakfast resulted in a change of heart and Hogan, 24, got the nod. For the long term, this must be the right decision. Hogan is eight years younger than Bradley.

There are those who consider him a better player, too. "Niall is an immeasurably better passer than Bradley," George Hook, formerly coach of London Irish, said. "He may be small but he is a wonderful defender, brave almost to the point of foolhardiness. I thought he was magnificent against the Japanese."

Hogan is one of those true amateurs whose rugby interests have to coexist alongside a career. When he returns to Ireland he will take up an internship at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin, where he will do six months surgery and six months medicine. "After that I will decide which I want to do. At the moment I want to work in a hospital and perhaps become a consultant. But it's very hard. Rugby is very intense and so is medicine. As far as my rugby is concerned, medicine is my career. If I can continue to combine the two then I will, but if I cannot, then it is the rugby that will have to go."

More immediately, he sees the key to Ireland's fortunes tomorrow as the pack. "We are very evenly matched. Perhaps our performance against the New Zealand forwards gives us the edge. Both teams feel it is make or break for them. There is a lot of pressure on us."

But if anyone has a cool hand and an analytical brain, it ought to be a man who is training to be a surgeon. Hogan may be the smallest man on the field — only a whisker separates him from Robert Jones, the Wales scrum half — but he is likely to play a big part in determining the outcome.

## Bonjour Monsieur Hastings. Good night France.

(Scotland to win by 5-10pts: 5/1.)

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First Tryscorer	Winning Points Margin	
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12/1 C Joiner	5/1 Scotland win by 6-10 points	
12/1 K Logan	5/1 Scotland win by 11-15 points	
12/1 E N'Namack	10/1 Scotland win by 16-20 points	
12/1 P Sella	4/1 France win by 1-5 points	
14/1 G Hastings	5/2 France win by 6-10 points	
15/1 T Lacroix	6/1 France win by 11-15 points	
16/1 G Shiel	9/1 France win by 16-20 points	

Other try scorers and margins on request. Penalty try not counted for first try scorer.

IRELAND v WALES

Johannesburg, kick off 4.00 pm. Live on ITV.

Handicap Betting

EVs. IRELAND (+4pts.)	5/6 WALES	14/1 TIE
First Tryscorer	Winning Points Margin	
7/1 G Thomas	4/1 Wales win by 1-5 points	
8/1 L Evans	5/2 Wales win by 6-10 points	
9/1 S Geoghegan	6/1 Wales win by 11-15 points	
9/1 J Bell	5/1 Wales win by 16-20 points	
9/1 R Wallace	4/1 Ireland win by 1-5 points	
10/1 R Mullin	4/1 Ireland win by 6-10 points	
14/1 H Taylor	5/1 Ireland win by 11-15 points	
16/1 N Jenkins	10/1 Ireland win by 16-20 points	

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## Following the president learning lessons for life

Rising with the sun, I made the journey this week to Robben Island from Table Bay harbour, Cape Town, that Nelson Mandela made in shackles in 1962. Instead of the old wooden fishing vessel in which warders urinated on him below deck through an overhead porthole, I came on the breakfast-time catamaran operated by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS), with a visiting group of happy children from one of Cape Town's semi-autonomous schools.

A sign on the main saloon bulkhead of *MY Penguin* proclaims "Peace in our land" below a couple of doves. As we docked at Murray Harbour, named after a 19th-century whaler who exported oil and bones to London, Mandela's ironic words on arrival seemed so true: "It looked more like a resort than a prison."

Excluding a return to the mainland for his "political" trial, Mandela would remain here until his transfer to Pollsmoor, near Cape Town, in 1982. As he first stepped ashore he had been greeted by an Afrikaner warder shouting: "Here you will die." The survival, and reincarnation as national president, of the man who opened the rugby World Cup ten days ago amid scenes of fervent multiracial nationalism, is already legend.

As you drive through the archway from the tiny dock, you are immediately faced with the low, grey and heavily wired high-security prison that the political prisoners themselves helped to construct in the early 1960s. Nowadays, the inmates are shoplifters and muggers.

When Mandela returned

from trial in 1964, he recorded in a manuscript buried in the prison courtyard that here was "the harshest, most iron-fisted outpost in the South African penal system". Lying on his straw bed, his head and feet touched the walls of his cell. That he could emerge from years of unimaginable inhumanities still possessing such magnanimity makes him truly a saint of our times.

This little island — *Robben* is Dutch for seal — is four miles north-to-south by a mile and a half east-west, and seven miles from Cape Town, having intermittently been a penal or

sergeant from the DCS took us on a tour of the island in a rickety bus. Observed by grazing springbok, we visited the disused lime quarry where Mandela and his colleagues dug for years with bleeding hands. Around the derelict slate quarry, haughty ostriches patrolled like latter-day warders.

Along the northern shore we met the resident penguins, who have well-beaten inland paths to their breeding grounds among the shrubs. The massive bulk of seaweed rise and fall on the swell between the rocks, the scene of later, more agreeable labour for Mandela as regulations relaxed, harvesting the weed for export to Japan and an opportunity to savour the island's natural joys and peace.

For all those years, Mandela somehow retained his sanity: doing his boxing "training", running on the spot in his cell for 45 minutes four days a week; playing draughts and scrabble and, later, the odd game of tennis when the warders laid a court in 1979; growing a few tomatoes in a garden used to bribe minor favours from the guards.

None of this let him drop his boxer's guard, not even when a friendly warder hinted at an escape plan, including the use of diving gear. Mandela ignored the proposal. The warder was, in fact, a plant by the Bureau of State Security, the plan being for Mandela to be shot during a contrived escape at Cape Town airport. Boxing teaches you lessons about survival that you don't learn elsewhere.

A jolly Billy Butlin sort of



WORLD CUP VIEWPOINT

DAVID MILLER

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## SPORT

SATURDAY JUNE 3 1995

Bath hooker wins fifth cap for England after eight-year gap

## Dawe steps back into limelight

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN DURBAN

THERE have been more interminable intervals between one international cap and another but Graham Dawe has waited longer than most to play for England again. The Bath hooker's fourth cap was on June 3, 1987, tomorrow, almost eight years to the day, he will win his fifth when England play Western Samoa at King's Park here in the final pool B game of rugby union's World Cup.

His is the reward for persistence above and beyond the call of duty. Dawe, 35, played three five nations' matches in 1987 only to be one of four players suspended by the Rugby Football Union after the violent clash at Cardiff between England and Wales. He went to the inaugural World Cup but has since been forced to play second fiddle to Brian Moore — or even third fiddle, when John Oliver was preferred as Moore's deputy.

The former from Launceston, whose round trip to train and play for Bath is some 300 miles, has always nourished the hope of representing his country again. "I call him the iron man," Jack Rowell, the manager, said yesterday when a much-changed England side was announced. "He has an

and moral blow of losing an untested Richards, is not one they find acceptable.

The pack also includes Richard West, the 6ft 10in Gloucester lock, who may have thought he was only along for the ride but now makes his international debut. At just short of 20 stone, West is the heaviest player in the tournament but his experience with England A against Natal here in March means he knows he will have to cover the ground in similar style to Martin Bayfield, the man he replaces.

The England management had to decide whether to field what they believed their strongest XV to be, in preparation for next weekend's quarter-final, or take the only opportunity to rest players. According to Rowell, it did not take them long to opt for the latter but he added: "This team has been picked to win against Western Samoa."

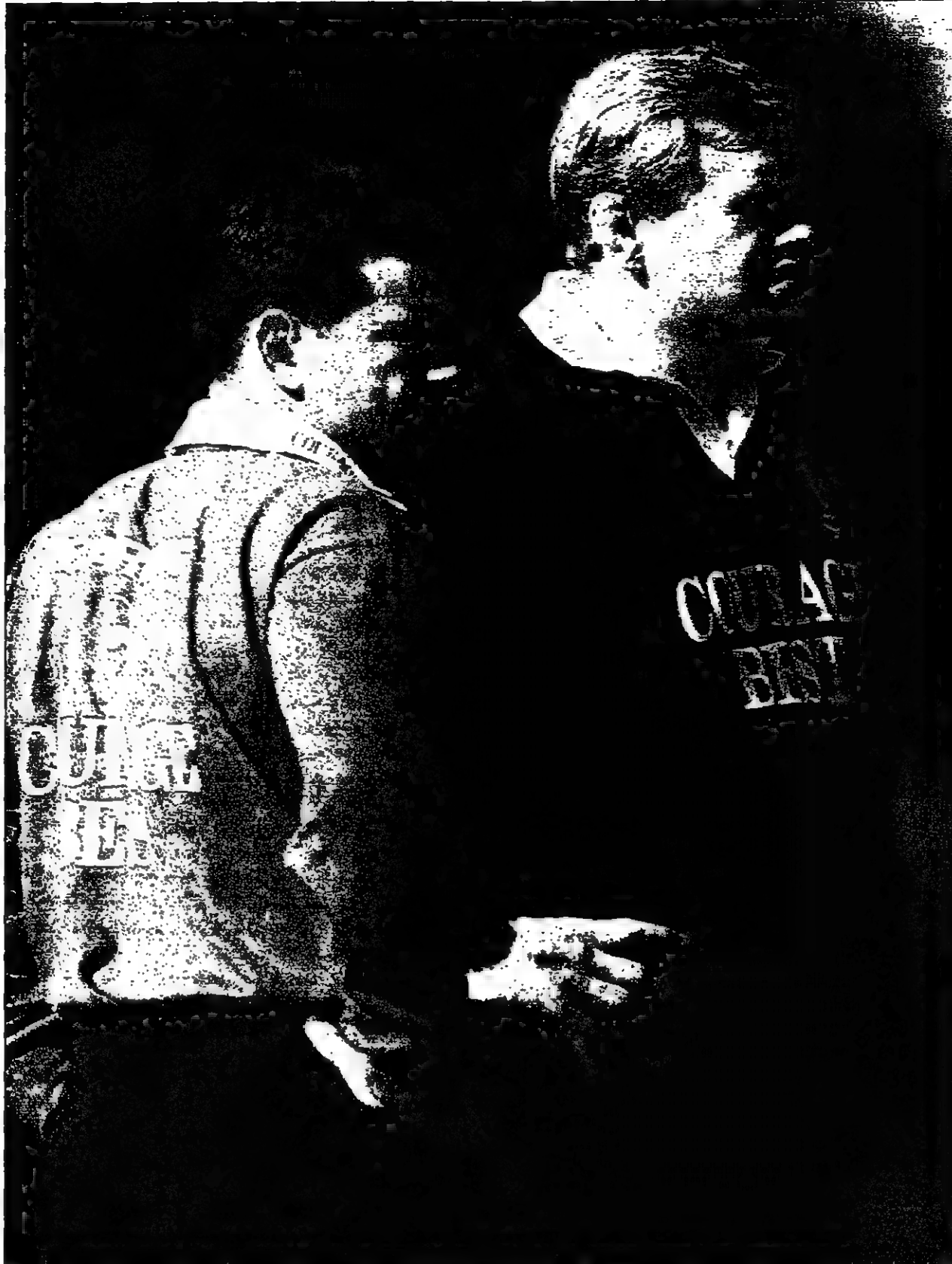
Since both sides are unbeaten, leadership of the pool hangs in the balance and a quarter-final at altitude in Johannesburg for the runner-up next Saturday, or on the coast in Cape Town for the winner next Sunday. "The wives and girlfriends of the players travel to Cape Town next week and if this team doesn't turn up there, some words will be said," Rowell joked, but he will not expect his players to falter in their first match against Samoa.

Those who have yet to appear in this World Cup — Callard, Hunter, Dawe, West and Richards (who will lead the pack) — will be champing at the bit. Those, like Ugo and Morris, have been challenged to produce their best so that they can retain their position; others such as de Gier and Ojomoh see the glimmerings of a possibility that more favoured players can be ousted.

"We will be looking to pick the form players for the quarter-final," Rowell said. That will be against either Australia or South Africa unless Canada throw a spanner in the works by beating South Africa in Port Elizabeth today. The clash with the light-footed Samoans, arguably the most popular team in the tournament, will test England physically and mentally, although they will surely hope for set-piece domination.

Not as Argentina found on Tuesday, that that will necessarily be enough. Western Samoa, who visit England in the autumn, have their own reasons for doing well and though they are without the injured Darren Kellert, their goalkicker, the promising wing, George Harder, the experienced flanker, Junior Paramore, and their veteran captain, Peter Fatialofa, they will be a mighty handful.

"We have to keep proving that we are competitive at the top level and we go into the game with a degree of confidence," Tate Simi, their manager, said. "England are five nations' champions and any English side is a good side." It is high time that England



Carling, left, and Richards, who both return from injury for England against Western Samoa. Photograph: Ian Stewart

demonstrated exactly that against someone but they will find tomorrow's opponents far from easy to be down. Rugby World Cup organisers have reinstated Sky Television's accreditation to cover the tournament after expelling them for breaching guidelines for non-rights holders. "Sky Television have provided the Rugby World Cup with an unconditional undertaking that they will abide by the rules and regulations governing non-rights holding television stations in the tournament," a statement from the organisers said yesterday. Sky were banned from the tournament on Tuesday after it had on several occasions taken "non-accredited cameras into accredited areas".



West: England debut

## DURBAN TEAMS

## ENGLAND

J E B Callard (Bath)  
I Hunter (Northampton)  
W D C Carling (Harlequins)  
P de Gier (Bath)  
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)  
M J Call (Bath)  
C D Morris (Oxford)  
G G Rowntree (Leicester)  
R G R Dawe (Bath)  
V E Ugo (Bath)  
S O Ojomoh (Bath)  
M O Johnson (Leicester)  
R West (Gloucester)  
N A Back (Leicester)  
D Richards (Leicester)

Replacements: P Robin (France)  
REPLACEMENTS: 16 D P Hopley (Wasps), 17 C R Andrew (Wasps), 18 K P P Bracken (Exeter), 19 T A K Rodder (Northampton/Army), 20 B C Moore (Harlequins), 21 A J Maltett (Bath).

## WESTERN SAMOA

M Umaga (Wellington)  
S Lima (Meru)  
T Vaea (Meru)  
T Pita (Meru)  
G Lasepepe (Papeete)  
E Pulea (Auckland Inst)  
T Muli (Otago)  
T Lasepepe (Meru)  
G Lata (Vainona)  
P Lasepepe (Meru)  
D Williams (Colonies)  
L Fiala (Meru)  
S Tatu (Ponsonby)  
P Lam (Meru)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 F Tulea (Meru), 17 F Sini (Meru), 18 V Vaea (Vaea), 19 M Lasepepe (Meru), 20 S Lasepepe (Meru), 21 P Fiala (Meru).

## England seek to keep the right balance

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT IS not often that a meeting of the England cricket selectors is dominated by debate over who should keep wicket, but this will be the case when the panel convenes in Manchester this evening. The balance of the side for the first Test match against West Indies, which begins at Headingley next Thursday, depends upon this one selection.

Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, has stated his desire to include an all-rounder, ensuring the presence of five front-line bowlers. But there is no obvious candidate as a batting all-rounder and the alternative, to use a wicket-keeper who can bat high in the order, is equally fraught.

The persistent lobby in favour of Alec Stewart keeping wicket is one with which I shall never agree — and neither will Stewart — but on this occasion the attractions of the idea have to be considered, not only for the extra bowler it would permit, but also because there is no sitting tenant to be evicted from the wicket-keeping job.

Steve Rhodes has held down the position for a year but followed an impressive winter tour on which his batting disintegrated, followed closely by fumbleings with the gloves and subsequent collapse of the self-confidence on which his game thrives. Significantly, however, he retains the faith of those who matter. Illingworth unconsciously insists he kept wicket "pretty well" in Australia.

I expect Rhodes to be relieved when the side is announced tomorrow but it will be as much by default as on persuasive form. The two younger wicketkeepers who impressed on England's A tour of India, Paul Nixon and Keith Piper, have barely played this season because of injury, and while the continued class, batting form and proven Test record of Jack Russell would be enough for me, I doubt whether it will persuade the selectors to recall him. Stewart rightly wishes to concentrate on opening the

barring with Atherton and it would be folly to disrupt this pairing. When he has played exclusively as a batsman, Stewart's Test average is 45; when burdened by the gloves it is 27. Proof enough.

There is a dark horse in the race, promoted by at least one selector, and that is Keith Brown, of Middlesex. He is one of the few wicketkeepers in England capable of batting at No 6 — Richard Blakely is another, but he would still be an outlandish choice for such a critical game.

If Rhodes is to continue, presumably batting no higher than No 7, the selectors must still resolve the choice between a sixth specialist batsman and a batting all-rounder. In the latter category, Craig White and the uncapped Adam Hobbins share similar credentials, not least an Australian upbringing, while if a batsman is to be favoured the place will be contested by John Crawley and Alan Wells. Crawley was disappointed.

Hick's fastest hundred... 41

ing in Australia, primarily to himself. Since returning to Lancashire, however, he has worked hard on fitness, mobility and technique, and it would not be logical to discard him. Wells is equipped for Test cricket, especially against fast bowling, and should be the first to benefit from fall-out through injury or form.

Little time will be required to confirm the top five, and four seam bowlers — Malcolm, DeFreitas, Gough and Fraser — are also close to automatic. They can be joined in a 13-man party by Peter Martin, though his good spells in one-day internationals ought not to promote him ahead of the established quartet, and by the left-arm spinner Richard Stemp, who may make his Test debut on his home ground.

A possible 13 is Atherton (captain), Stewart, Hick, Thorpe, Ramprakash, Crawley, Rhodes, Gough, DeFreitas, Malcolm, Fraser, Stemp and Martin.

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## Scotland rely on Hastings for inspiration

FROM MARK SOUSTER  
IN VICTORIA

ON THE eve of their most important match since the World Cup semi-final against England in 1991, the Scotland team went to watch a special showing of the film, *Rob Roy*, here. What they made of Liam Neeson's Scottish accent or lines like "Don't mess with my sporan if you know what's good for you," is anybody's guess, but as Gavin Hastings said, pictures of home can only be inspiring.

Hastings has been inspirational in Scotland's smooth progress to the quarter-finals of the World Cup for the third successive tournament. His 75 points in two matches are a staggering achievement and he is now by far the most prolific points scorer in World Cup history.

Much will depend on him repeating his match-winning performances against France this afternoon. While Pierre Berbizier, the France coach, has continually preached the need for discipline, his side's temperament has never been his strong point. Hastings, who is kicking as well as he



Morgan: unswerving

has ever done and playing some of the best rugby of his career, will punish any indiscretion. For the victor there is a quarter-final against Ireland or Wales, for the vanquished a meeting with New Zealand.

After Scotland's final training session yesterday, which Doddie Weir, the lock, missed with an upset stomach, Hastings said: "I think we have the psychological advantage after winning in Paris in February. There is no reason to think we cannot repeat that win. Obviously we want to win but if we lose it's not the last straw."

France may suffer from the lack of a reliable goalkicker. Naas Botha, the former South Africa stand-off and supreme

points accumulator, does not believe. Thierry Lacroix has the method or mentality to kick well under pressure.

While the Scots have passion, pride and an unquenchable ability to score tries virtually at will given the right frame of mind and a prevailing wind. They may have

looked pedestrian in their wins over Tonga and the Ivory Coast, but the suspicion remains that they were going through the motions to ensure qualification and that they can still move up several gears.

Berbizier, though, was disgusted by the team's lacklustre displays, as was Philippe Sella, who, as the senior player, took it upon himself to lambast his colleagues and himself. "I felt it was my responsibility to do so," Sella said. "We must now search deep into our souls to see if we have the heart."

If any side can lift themselves for a one-off occasion, then it is the mercurial French. This, remember, is the same side which twice beat the All Blacks in New Zealand last summer. Scotland, however, are working up a head of steam. The draw, which had concerned the management before the tournament began, now appears to have worked in their favour.

Despite their historic win in the five nations' championship, Scotland refuse to regard themselves as favourites to win today. The game will be tight and uncompromising.

Scottish pragmatism versus French flair. France expect to be bombarded by Craig Chalmers and Scotland are unlikely to disappoint.

As Dougie Morgan, the Scotland coach, said yesterday: "High balls have been part and parcel of our game for years. We may have developed more this season but it is always an option. It seems to be a popular tactic in this World Cup."

The stakes could not be higher and all thoughts of the Auld Alliance have been dismissed. Historically, there is little between the teams. They have played each other 66 times, with France winning 32, Scotland 31 and three games drawn. The last time they met in the World Cup was in the inaugural competition, in New Zealand in 1987. The score then was 20-20. If the game today is drawn, whoever scores most tries will win the pool. If that is level, the number of tries in the preceding games will determine the winner. On that count, Scotland would triumph.

Lock of ages, page 41

## PRETORIA TEAMS

## SCOTLAND

A G Hastings (Walesman)  
C Jolner (Metros)  
S Hastings (Walesman)  
G Shiel (Metros)  
K Logan (Stirling County)  
C Chalmers (Metros)  
B Roddick (Metros)  
D Hilton (Bath)  
K Milne (Hertford)  
P Wright (Glasgow)  
R Wainwright (W Hartlepool)  
D Cronin (Glasgow)  
G Weir (Metros)  
I Morrison (Ldn Scottish)  
E Peters (Bath)

Replacements: W Erickson (Australia)  
REPLACEMENTS: 16 T Stanger (Hawick), 17 I Jardine (Stirling City), 18 D Patterson (West Hartlepool), 19 S Campbell (Glasgow HSFP), 20 P Burnell (London Scottish), 21 K

## FRANCE

J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)  
E N'Temack (Toulouse)  
P Sella (Agen)  
T Lacroix (Dax)  
P Saint-André (Montferrand)  
C Daynaud (Toulouse)  
G Accoceberry (Dax)  
L Bénédicte (Racing)  
J-M Gonzalez (Beyonne)  
C Calvière (Toulouse)  
A Benazzi (Agen)  
O Moris (Montferrand)  
O Roumet (Dax)  
L Cabannes (Racing)  
P Banetton (Agen)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 F Meunier (Racing), 17 Y Delagade (Toulon), 18 A Huser (Toulon), 19 M Cadiot (Bourgnon), 20 P Gallant (Béziers), 21 L Armary (Lourdes).

مكتبة الأمل



see the ane



Love in an old climate: the woman with a driving passion

page 3



Your chance to win a luxurious Rover 400 Tourer

page 7



SATURDAY JUNE 3 1995

## Tony Dawe investigates the sophisticated rackets that inflate the cost of everybody's motoring insurance



MARTIN REDDALL

### Cornered: the cons that drive up premiums

A surge in increasingly ingenious and sophisticated motor insurance frauds has led to charges that insurance companies are going soft on the racketeers.

Scrapped cars are being "reinvented" by crooks who later claim they have been stolen; other wrecks are involved in carefully rigged accidents leading to phoney insurance claims. Some owners are even arranging for their own cars to be stolen for export.

Some 40,000 cars are set alight deliberately each year as a prelude to a fraudulent claim. Investigators have found tow ropes of cars supposedly stolen and dumped, but which were in fact old bangers towed to some remote spot and torched.

Even the Association of British Insurers (ABI), reluctant to admit that its members are conned easily, estimates that fraud costs the industry £200 million a year and adds 3.5 per cent to every driver's motor

insurance premium. That might mean only £14 a year to a middle-aged family motorist with a modest saloon but it could add hundreds of pounds a year to the premiums of young drivers and those with performance cars.

The loss adjusters who stand between insurance companies and motorists believe both are to blame for Britain's shocking fraud record. They accuse insurers of failing to investigate dubious claims because of fears of upsetting customers in a highly competitive market, while they believe even honest motorists think insurance companies are "fair game" for dishonest claims.

"The present marketing war between motor insurance companies means everybody is competing not only on price but on service," says Colin Farley, managing director of Fishers Farley, a leading firm of loss adjusters.

"There is a tendency to fast-track all claims, even those that staff believe need investigation. I suspect many insurance companies feel that now

they have invested in various computer systems, they have done enough to defeat fraud. All that has happened, however, is that organised crooks have become more sophisticated."

David Brownswort, director of Miller Knight, adds: "Wherever there is a highly efficient system of paying out money, as there is in insurance and social benefits, there you will find fraud."

In a survey of its members published this week, the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters found that most believed normally honest members of the public were less than honest with their insurance claims because of a feeling that "everybody is at it".

Many loss adjusters with considerable experience in handling claims believed important reasons for cheating were that "insurance companies have made it easy" and "it's a way of getting even with the companies".

Research by Gallup for the ABI showed that one in six people agreed with the state-



In the front line: Ewen Conacher, a former police inspector, pits his wits against fraudsters

ment that: "Insurance companies can afford to pay so it's worth having a go" (at falsifying or inflating a claim).

One man in the front line of the ignoble battle is Ewen Conacher, a former detective inspector with 30 years experience in the force and now a Fishers Farley investigator. Based in Shrewsbury, he spends much of his time probing salvage frauds, "ringers", export fiddles and a host of other rackets across north Wales, northern England and the Midlands.

Scrapyards, used car dealers and back-street garages are all on his calling list and he

maintains a hotline to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in Swansea and to former police contacts.

Many frauds, he says, involve cars which have been written off in accidents or stolen but not entered on a vital insurance industry security file, the Motor Incident Anti-Fraud and Theft register (MIAFTA).

"Insurance companies use this register to check whether a car involved in a claim has been written off or involved in previous thefts, but many vehicles are missed off the list. If two cars are written off in the same accident caused by

one driver, the insurance company paying out the claim will put its vehicle on the list but the other one might be ignored. One of the biggest problems now is the decision of many large companies to 'self-insure' and deal with their own losses rather than pay huge insurance premiums. When their vehicles are written off or stolen, they seldom find their way on to the register."

Many written-off cars are auctioned in the salvage trade and some have even been advertised as "damaged car (not on register)".

"Crooks will buy these cars

and send them to the scrapyard to be crushed, but keep the log book and MOT certificate and steal another vehicle and give it the identity of the crushed one," Conacher says. "They are known as 'ringers' in the trade and will be sold on or even reported stolen."

"The latest racket is to pretend that the scrapped car still exists. Villains keep the log book, obtain a fraudulent MOT certificate, rig phoney pictures of the vehicle, insure it... and then report it stolen."

Another option is to keep the written-off car locked up for a

while, reinsure it and then arrange for an accomplice to claim his car has crashed into it. Brownswort has just detected a highly involved chain of fraudulent accident claims involving minicab drivers in Bradford, after noticing that the handwriting was similar on different claim forms and that in one case, the claimant had crashed into one of his business partners.

Conacher's detective work has unearthed an owner who claimed that his car was stolen for export but had in fact paid for the ferry ticket himself, and another motorist who was paid out by his insurers after claiming his car had been stolen when it had been repossessed by his finance company.

"People in the industry don't talk to one another, which can make our job very frustrating," he says. "In one case, I found that the man I was investigating had made similar fraudulent claims to two big insurance companies and been paid out. The companies were informed but did nothing. I suppose they were embarrassed and didn't want to reassess a bad decision."

Leading insurance companies claim, however, that their policies have changed to combat the increasing tide of fraud. Tony Grieg, assistant claims manager of the Guardian, says: "Although there may be some companies which view fraud as super-markets do pilferage — as painful but acceptable wastage — we do not. We have recently started our own fraud unit and now every claimant who reports a car stolen is interviewed. That alone has resulted in something like five per cent of claims being withdrawn."

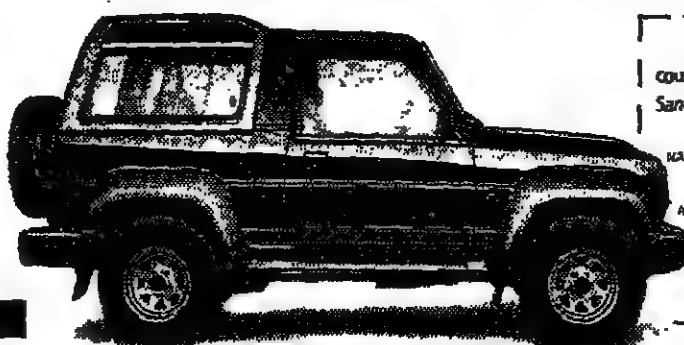
Interviewing not only scares off some but reveals details about endorsements, claims history and other unreported but relevant details. Where we find fraud, we go to court as a matter of policy. The days when we were frightened of 'bad' publicity are over. The honest policyholder supports what we are doing."

The Norwich Union reports: "We are doing everything we can to scare off the fraudster. We only use approved repairers, which cuts down on the phoney or inflated repair invoice scam."

Additional reporting by Hugh Thompson

'Crooks steal cars to match the ones crushed'

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## THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

## LONDON

International football at Wembley will bring hold-ups in the area. England v Japan at 1pm today; England v Brazil at 4pm next Sunday. Expect heavy traffic on A406 North Circular Road, A404 Harrow Road and A40 Western Avenue. A102M Blackwall Tunnel, Northern Approach closed under A13 until 9pm tomorrow. The tunnel is open, but expect diversions. A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton. Road works reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct. A406 North Circular Rd, East Finchley. Reduced to one lane in parts between A1 and A1000 for continuing major roadworks. A5201, Clerkenwell Rd. Closed at junction with Farringdon Road for bridge works until May 1996.

## SOUTH EAST

Biggin Hill Air Fair takes place next Friday to June 11. Expect heavy traffic on A21, A233 and local roads. The Derby meeting at Epsom takes place next Friday to June 11. Expect heavy traffic at Epsom Downs, Tattenham Corner and on A24 and A217 Brighton Road. M25 Surrey. Roadworks and lane closures between J10 and J11 (A3-Chertsey) and J7 and J8 (M23-Reigate). M23 J9 (Gatwick). Contraflow for major roadworks. M25 J1-2 (near M25 in Kent). Contraflow for maintenance with extra lane closures overnight (until July). A3 Guildford, Surrey. Major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton. Long delays daily. A21 Coopers Corner, Kent. Major roadworks start on Monday, with temporary lights at junction with the B2095. A27 Slindon, Sussex. Closed between A29 junction and Ford Road roundabout from 6am to 8.30pm on Sunday June 11. Diversions planned.

## SOUTH WEST

Royal Bath & West Show is on today at Shepton Mallet showground, Somerset. M5 Avon. Two separate contraflows for major roadworks: between J19 and J17 (Portbury-Bristol West) and J17 and J16 (Bristol West-Almondsbury). Southbound entry slip road at J16 is also closed. M5 Gloucestershire. Two separate contraflows for roadworks, between J12 and J11 (Gloucester-Cheltenham) and at J9 (Twickenbury). A417 Gloucester. Contraflow on Barnwood Bypass, between Gloucester Trading Estate and C & G roundabout (until mid-July). A4019 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. One-way system operating during roadworks in the High Street. A38 nr Norton St Philip, Somerset. Major roadworks at junction with A366 (until end-June). A30 Indian Queens Bypass, Cornwall. Eastbound traffic follows lengthy diversions from A39 Highgate Interchange to rejoin A30 at Castle-an-Dinas. A39 Penryn, Cornwall. Only two lanes on the river bridge during maintenance (until October).

## MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M1 near J21 (Leicester). Contraflow with only two lanes running southbound (three northbound) causing delays (to exit south to services or J21 stay in left lane). M6 West Midlands J5-6 (A462-A38M). Contraflow

with narrow lanes and sliproad restrictions at J6. A45 Stonebridge, West Midlands. Flyover construction at A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 & Stonebridge Island (until end-June). A4123 near Dudley, West Midlands. One lane closed each way on Birmingham New Road (until Monday). A453 Nottingham. Major roadworks on Clifton Lane between Fabis Drive and Clifton Bridge (until September).

## NORTH

M6 Lancashire J29-32 (Bamber-Broughton). Widening works with only two lanes southbound at J31 (Samlesbury) until mid-July. A1 Dishforth, North Yorkshire. Contraflow until end of June. A168 Dishforth. Temporary lights at bridge over A1 until mid-June. A19 County Durham. Major roadworks between Peterlee and Hawthorn. A41 Merseyside. Contraflow on New Ferry Bypass until mid-June. A1058 Jesmond Road, Newcastle. One lane each way on Cradwell Bypass until September.

## WALES

The Great Welsh Race takes place in Cardiff tomorrow. Many roads will be affected between 6am and midday. A48 Dyfed. Contraflow west of J45 of M4 during construction. A467 Newport, Gwent. Contraflow at Forge Lane during improvement work on A48 between J28 of M4 and Tredegar Park roundabout. A5 Maerdy, Clwyd. Improvements continue at the Glyn bends. Various restrictions until end of July. A465 West Glamorgan, between Llandarcy and Aberdulais. Contraflow along Saltings viaduct for resurfacing. A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. One-way system operating on Gellwasted Road during widening work (until the end of June). A449 Gwent and A40 between Newport and Monmouth. Major works with lane closures reducing routes to one lane.

## SCOTLAND

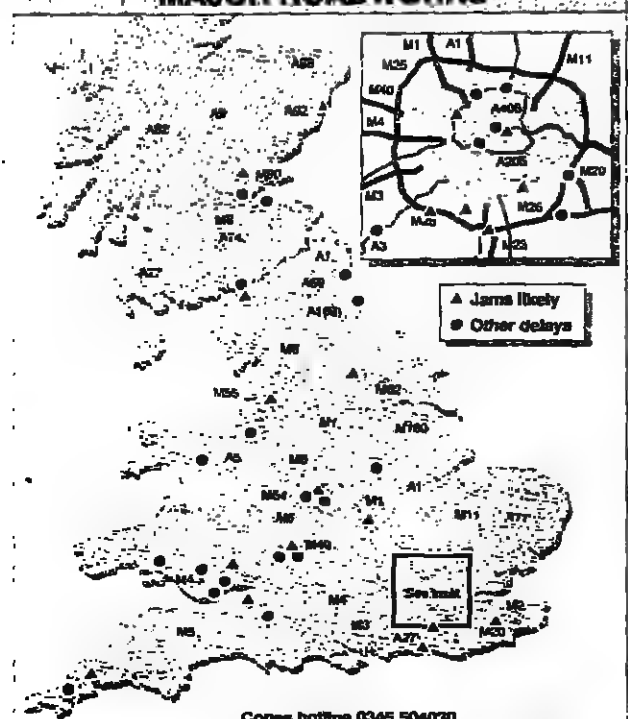
A cycle race through Aberdeen City Centre on Wednesday. Involves numerous road closures between 6.45pm and 8.45pm. M90 Tayside J10 (Frianon Bridge). Northbound lane closure and a contraflow overnight. M8 Strathclyde J15-18 (Townhead-Charing Cross). Outside lane closed westbound. M8 Strathclyde J29-30 (St James-Erskine). Contraflow operating causing peak-time delays (until June 6).

A77 Strathclyde. Contraflow near junction with B764 Eaglesham Road. Temporary lights working overnight and all day on Sunday (to finish June 8). A91 Kirkcaldy, Fife. Width restrictions on St Clair Street for roadworks (until beginning of July). A8000 near South Queensferry, Lothian. Temporary lights at Kirkcaldy Road for roadworks. Edinburgh. Width restrictions in High Street between North and South bridges.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

M1 near J10 (Lurgan). Contraflow for major roadworks with the westbound entry and exit slip roads at J10 closed until tomorrow. M2 County Antrim closed southbound between Sandyknowes and Greencastle interchanges until 5am Monday.

## MAJOR ROADWORKS

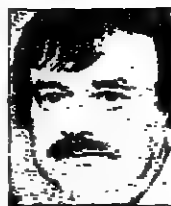


Correspondence 0345 5040220

'I want the latest BMW 750iL badly, not for its engine or I'm-a-pilot dashboard, but because it has 14 speakers'

## Adjust your 'Q' bump for a noisy ride

## DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



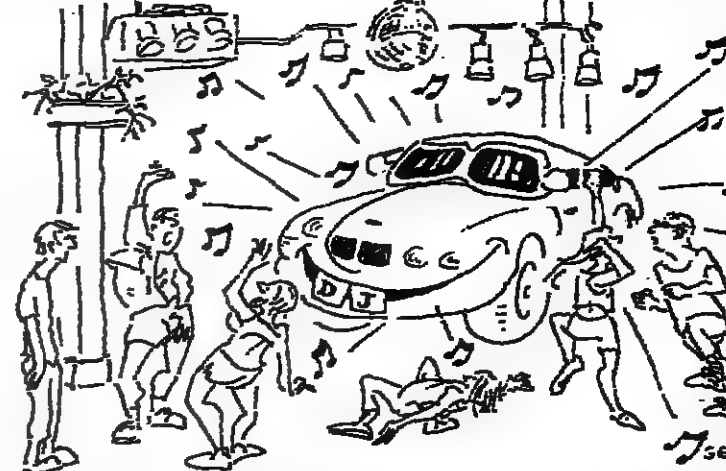
Peter Barnard

I used to own a couple of BMWs. Well no, one at a time, since you ask. And second-hand. The 7-series of yesteryear was in my opinion one of the most elegant vehicles so far invented and whereas other BMWs have gone all hideous with wedge shapes at the back, the latest 7-series, although markedly raised at the back, retains the overall good looks that made the marque great.

I gave up BMWs because I could not abide the harsh ride, the practicalities of grafting on a pair of Germanic buttocks being some where over the horizon of transplant technology. Now temptation returns in the form of the 750iL. I admit that the absence beneath my mattress of a sum even distantly related to £69,000 is a slight handicap but I want a 750iL badly. Not because of that engine or that body shape or the I'm-a-pilot dashboard. I want a 750iL because it has 14 speakers. Fourteen speakers! Hi-fi heaven! Multiply the interior area of the 750iL so that it becomes the size of the average living-room and what you have is a living-room containing, what, 50 speakers? Absolutely... what's that you say? Ridiculous? Oh, all right: absolutely ridiculous.

I read this sentence browsing through *Carlife* magazine while waiting for a radio-cassette player to be fitted in my car this week. This took a little longer than the finer expected because he could not find the rear speakers. The reason was that I have no rear speakers. Only two at the front: speaker-wise, my car is a 750iL minus 12. I dared not ask whether I have a ported bass box or where my Q bump might be. I expect that maximum thump is what one is tempted to thump against people playing Take That at high volume, a summer curse which is insufficiently prosecuted under noise pollution laws. Not that the music you and I like is ever too loud, other people are the problem.

But what is this, elsewhere in *Carlife*? Neon light? Just when you thought you had everything ICE could throw up, here comes an idea from America that involves speaker-shaped neon in various hideous colours which can be hooked up to the car hi-fi so that the lights flash to the beat of the music. You can even fit neon strips along the outside of the car, roughly where the sills are, so that the vehicle resembles a discotheque turned inside out. As a means of distracting not just the



driver but everyone else on the road, this takes some beating. It won't catch on... will it?

THE AWFUL coach crash in which 10 people died on the M4 last week brings a postscript. The accident happened a few miles from where I live so I heard all the local media coverage. At one point a man was interviewed who said that having heard about the crash, "we decided

to drive down there and have a look". Privately, police officers were spitting with fury over this kind of ghoulish behaviour, which brought huge jams on the unaffected westbound side of the M4 as people slowed to a crawl to look at the scene. It always happens and it very often brings secondary incidents as these idiots run into each other or their engines overheat. Behaviour like that is a disgrace to the motorist.



A gas-powered taxi: if every vehicle followed suit, British Gas says, exhaust emissions would fall by 70 per cent

## Step on the gas for a cleaner country

A powerful group of government advisers believe that tax cuts should be used to encourage drivers to change from petrol to gas.

The report, from the business community, academics and scientists, will advise John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, later this month that greater use of vehicles powered by natural gas could cut the exhaust fumes which have led to breathing difficulties for thousands of people.

The message from the Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment, led by Derek Wanless, group chief executive of NatWest, is the most powerful yet in the battle to find an answer to vehicle pollution.

British Gas claims that if every vehicle in the country was converted to natural gas tomorrow, there would be a 70 per cent reduction in exhaust emissions to a level not seen since 1910. Tailpipe emissions from a gas-powered vehicle have up to 24 per cent less carbon dioxide than petrol, 76 per cent less carbon monoxide, 83 per cent less nitrogen oxides, 88 per cent fewer hydrocarbons, 99 per cent less benzene and almost no sulphur or lead.

However, attitudes to a fuel which is readily available and already piped to millions of homes and business locations have been apathetic. In addition, natural gas is taxed at about four times the rate of petrol and diesel. Yet, if duty was cut to the European Union minimum of 7.8p/Kg, British Gas says 200,000 gas-powered vehicles would be on the roads within five years.

The committee is convinced that the quality of air in towns and cities, which suffer the impact of toxic exhaust gases being pumped from thousands of stationary cars, taxis, lorries and buses could be improved dramatically if more vehicles ran on compressed natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas.

But its members are telling

## Nick Nuttall and Kevin Eason on a revolutionary way to ease pollution



Without a tax break, gas conversion can cost £1,500

Gummer that tax breaks are needed to encourage the conversion of vehicles, which can cost about £1,500 each. It urges both the Government and local councils to be first to convert.

The reward is the prospect of an improved environment and improved health, far outweighing the problem of offering tax incentives to drivers, the sort of policy the Government has steadfastly avoided throughout a decade of environmental debate.

Converting vehicles such as taxis and buses could have an immediate impact on congested

city centres, where diesel fumes and soot have been blamed for health problems. Worries that losses on fuel duty—worth £12 billion a year to the Treasury—would be hit by wholesale desertion to cheaper gas have been allayed by the committee, which says such losses would be more than offset by cost savings in fewer hospital admissions for asthma, bronchitis and heart conditions.

Cleaning and conservation costs for buildings soiled and dirtied by diesel and other vehicle fumes would also be reduced. The advisory com-

mittee, whose members are appointed by Mr Gummer and Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, also believes there will be a boost in yields of crops.

Publication of the report comes after a series of days in which towns and cities have experienced worsening air pollution, leading to demands for action to curb exhaust emissions. Some have advocated banning cars.

The case for natural gas is that it is available now and needs no extra technology nor even huge investment in specialised filling stations. The fuel can be used in conventional petrol and diesel engines.

Cars merely need a gas tank fitted into the boot, plus minor engine adjustments. The gas is pumped into the cylinders and burns to provide power in exactly the same way as petrol. A dashboard switch allows the vehicle to run on either fuel, with little difference in performance.

Supporters say there is no reason why gas taps for vehicles should not be readily available in conventional filling stations because pipelines run through main streets. Specially-constructed nozzles are safe to use and could even be installed in users' homes, according to British Gas. This would make filling the car as easy and normal as switching on the gas cooker to make a cup of tea.

Yet the benefits of gas have failed to ignite a spark of interest among private motorists. Only fleet users and commercial vehicle owners have expressed interest so far: vehicles such as delivery vans could fill up at the company depot.

Figures from the Natural Gas Vehicle Association, whose members include British Gas, show that there are only around 350 vehicles in Britain powered by gas. This compares with a total of 260,000 in Italy and 350,000 in Russia.

## 'Accidents don't come much worse'

## Police name six teenagers killed in fireball crash

HEATHER KIRBY, who was with the six teenagers who died in a fireball crash on the M4 last week, says: "I was told I was not allowed to see my son, who was very badly injured. Possibly the police were trying to protect my feelings but they took it upon themselves without asking me and they have no right to."

## Heather Kirby on those who mourn road crash victims

THERE IS no official help in Britain for families who have to cope with the sudden death of someone close in a road traffic accident.

The parents and relatives of the six teenagers burned to death when their car hit a tree in southeast London last Sunday may have each other to turn to for comfort. But their grief is likely to be compounded by a lack of information when the bewildering formalities surrounding such a death have to be attended to.

The European Federation of Road Traffic Victims, comprising 13 organisations from nine countries, launched a report last month, funded by the European Commission, which reveals that 91 per cent of families of the dead and 78 per cent of those disabled complain of not being informed of their legal rights.

Eighty-nine per cent expressed dissatisfaction with the justice system and 80 per cent were dismayed by insurance companies. Over 70 per cent lose interest in everyday activities, 64 per cent suffer from depression and 37 per cent have suicidal feelings.

The report calls for special centres to give the relatives of victims legal, medical and psychological advice; for advice leaflets which police and GPs could hand out as soon as a tragedy occurs; and for increased government funding to support groups.

In Britain, Brigitte Chaudry, whose 26-year-old son was killed four and a half years ago, formed the charity RoadPeace. She says: "There are so many things people should know about. For instance, families have a right to have a doctor present at the post mortem but no one advises them of that; and as a post-mortem happens very

early on, by the time they find out it is too late. People also have a right to a second, independent post mortem if they want one."

"I was told I was not allowed to see my son, who was very badly injured. Possibly the police were trying to protect my feelings but they took it upon themselves without asking me and they have no right to."

Andrew Miller, Labour MP for Ellesmere Port, who campaigns on behalf of road traffic victims' families, says: "Evidence from the European Federation is strong that the degree of support given in this country is very poor compared to other parts of Europe. There needs to be someone whose function is to work closely with families to help them through the trauma; a similar system to Victim Support, which helps in criminal attacks."

ROADPEACE groups have now been formed by bereaved parents in six areas. Mrs Chaudry says: "People who have lost a loved one through a sudden, violent death are inconsolable. Marriages break up, and other children leave home because of the atmosphere."

"Doctors give out sleeping pills too easily when perhaps longer-term psychotherapy would be more helpful. We know of parents, fathers particularly, who have died shortly after their child's death, possibly of a broken heart. Parents need to talk to people who understand."

"They also want to do something, to raise awareness, to prevent others from going through the same thing, to see some sense in their loss."

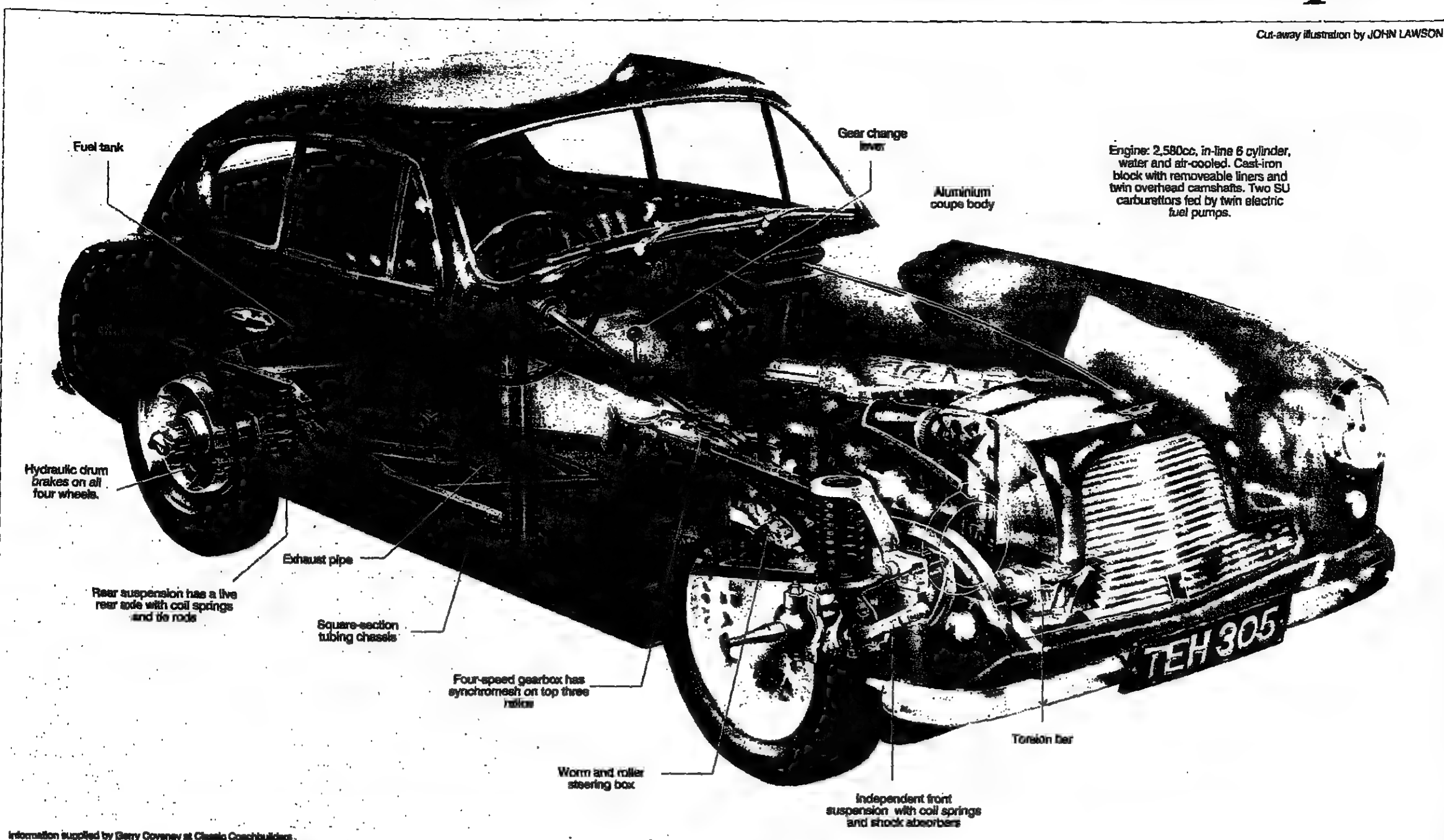
RoadPeace: tel 0181-984 1021.



Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, continuing his series on 12 great British cars, selects the Aston Martin DB2

# The classic racer that made its marque

Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON



The Aston Martin really is a survivor: the name has been carried by some of the most glamorous British sports cars for more than 70 years, yet the company has had 10 different owners and the marque has several times been in danger of extinction.

Wealthy sportsman Lionel Martin campaigned a Singer in hill climbs just before the First World War, being particularly successful at Aston Clinton in Buckinghamshire. When he built a special, he combined his name with that of the hill and the first Aston Martin was christened.

Production began in a very small way in the unlikely location of South Kensington and continued at Feltham, Middlesex, until 1939. After the war, a new 2-litre, four-cylinder engine was announced and installed in a space-frame chassis. It powered the sports car which won the Spa 24-Hour Race in 1948. This new car caught the attention of tractor-maker

David Brown, who bought up Aston Martin in February, 1952, and the car brought another car company, Lagonda, mainly for its 2.5-litre, six-cylinder, twin-cam engine, which had been designed by W.O. Bentley.

The first Aston made under David Brown control used the four-cylinder engine with an attractive drophead coupe body. Initially called simply the Two-Litre Sports, it later acquired the title DB1. Only 15 were made, though, as Brown had something more exciting in mind.

The logical step was to combine the best of both his purchases, so the Lagonda engine was installed in an improved version of the Aston Martin chassis. The body was a fastback coupe, the shape first seen on the DB1. Three of these coupes ran at Le Mans in 1949, one with the six-cylinder engine. This was in effect a DB2, though not so called at the time.

The production DB2 was announced in April, 1950. Lat-

er in the year, when *The Autocar* published its first road test, it said that with the Lagonda engine in a lighter chassis and a superior body outline, the new Aston Martin should be "something" — and it was.

The 2.5-litre engine gave 105bhp at 5,000rpm and a top speed of 110mph; 0-60mph took 12.4 seconds. While not as dramatic as the Jaguar XK120 (124mph and 10 seconds), the Aston's engine was a whole lot smaller. The DB2 had a four-speed gearbox with synchromesh on the three upper ratios, and the standard control was a floor-mounted lever, though a column change — as used on the Lagonda — was also available. The *Autocar* observed that "most prospective buyers would probably settle for the central lever" and they were doubtless right. Engine

accessibility was excellent, as the entire bonnet, wings and nose panel hinged ahead of the wheels.

The body seated two comfortably, the passenger seat being slightly wider than the driver's. Behind was a space in which, in *The Autocar's* words, "with supplementary cushions, the more agile type of passenger could be accommodated temporarily." For a short journey three people could squeeze into the front seats, but the DB2 could not reasonably be thought of as anything more than a two-seater until the arrival of the DB2/4 in 1954, and even then rear seats were of the "children or dwarves" variety.

DB2 bodies were made in the Tickford coachbuilding factory at Newport Pagnell, Bucks. Before 1955, the engines, chassis and gearboxes

came from the David Brown factory near Leeds, but thereafter the cars were made entirely at Newport Pagnell, where they still are today, apart from the DB7 which is made at TWR's premises in Bloxham, Oxfordshire.

Following the success of the DB1s at Le Mans in 1949, it was logical to try out the new cars on the Sarthe Circuit in 1950. A team of three, with numbers which were to become celebrated — VMF 63, 64 and 65 — ran under the management of John Wyer, finishing fifth and sixth overall and winning the Index of Performance.

The engines of these DB2s had higher compression ratios of 8.2:1, compared with 6.5:1 on the standard cars. This gave an output of 116bhp and a top speed of 120mph, and was later available on production cars. It was called the Vantage engine, a name which is still used for higher performance Astons today. DB2s ran in many of the big, prestigious sports car races of the day,

including the Tourist Trophy, Silverstone Production Car Race and the Mille Miglia, in which they finished first and second in class in 1952. Maurice Gatsonides won his class in the 1955 Monte Carlo Rally, and a second-hand DB2 won the 1956 RAC Rally.

After 410 examples of the DB2 had been made, it gave way at the end of 1953 to the DB2/4, with additional small seats and an opening rear which was an early hatchback. The Vantage tune was now standard and in 1954 a 3-litre engine was offered, restoring the performance lost by the extra seats. A small number of drophead coupes were made and also a notchback hardtop coupe on which the fastback lines were abandoned, making a less attractive looking car.

The last of the DB2s appeared in 1957, the clumsily named DB2/4 Mark III, which had a more rounded front end, power increased to

162bhp, Girling disc brakes at the front and the option of an automatic gearbox; 551 of these were made up to 1959, taking total DB2 production to 1,724.

Its successor was the DB4, whose fastback body was styled by the Italian firm Carrozzeria Touring, though it was similar to the DB2's. The DB3's engine was a detuned version of the 3.7-litre unit powering DBR2 sports/racing cars.

The DB2 engine was used in a series of competition cars: the DB3 with tubular frame designed by Eberan von Eberhorst, the DB3S and the DBR2. In the latter it was enlarged to 3.7 litres, winning many classic races including the Tourist Trophy in 1958 and

Le Mans in 1959, when Aston Martin became the first British company to win the Sports Car Constructors' Championship. The Bentley-designed engine was progressively developed during the 1960s, being increased to nearly 4 litres on the DB5 in 1964. By this time power was up to 282bhp in standard tune, and 314bhp in Vantage form. It was carried on in the DBS until 1972, after which Aston went over to V8 engines.

The David Brown era (1947-1972) was the longest in Aston Martin's history and, for most of the time, the most profitable. There is every hope that now it is under Ford ownership, the name will continue to flourish.

## 'In 1959, the DB2 engine won a first at Le Mans'

## Diary of a 'demented loony'

Kate Laven talks to Jo Moss about her passion for restoring classic cars

Most women go through life without giving their welding skills a second thought. To Jo Moss, though, this represents a problem.

Greater dexterity with an oxy-acetylene torch would mean tackling all her own classic car restorations without recourse to the other craftsmen with whom she now has to share jobs and honours.

Ever since she can remember, Jo, 30, has been a "demented loony" — her description of a fanatic driven by a passion for pre-war cars and their trappings. She has owned five, including her current AC Unicorn, which she built from scratch, and a beloved Invicta. She also has a stunning orange MGB Roadster, her third and to date her favourite MG.

When she's flush, she races the cars. When she isn't, she earns extra money restoring other peoples' at a small workshop just outside New Milton, Hampshire. She reads, talks, lives and breathes classic cars.

She blames her father for her fixation. Among an ever-changing fleet of family cars, he had a Lagonda V12, a Wolseley Daytona and a three-wheel Morgan. He died when Jo was 11 and his legacy was a deep-rooted love of fast, elegant pre-war cars and bikes.

"When I left school I decided I wanted a vintage bike but mum said 'no way'. I had saved £350 so, instead, I spent

it on my first car — a 1948 Morris 8 which had not been on the road for 10 years.

"I was incredibly lucky. I had no precise idea of what I wanted but it was advertised in *Classic Car* for £450 and the lady it belonged to just wanted it to go to a good home."

Jo bought it before she passed her driving test, and it was her first real love affair. A couple of years later she was left some money by a relative. She added it to the £1,200 profit it on the Morris and traded up.

"I bought a 1978 red Morgan because I had always wanted one and my dad had one. It was fast, sporty, great fun and I fell in love with it. I tend to fall in love with all my cars — have to, really, because if they go wrong I have to put up with so much."

That romance was also short-lived. Visiting her aunt one day, she discovered a 1933 Essex Terraplane 8 under dust covers in the garage. It belonged to a neighbour's son and had been there for 14 years.

Within hours a deal had been struck and the car, a rare American drophead coupé

with a wonderful 4.2 litre engine, was hers. Apart from the brakes, paintwork and chrome, it needed little work, allowing Jo to carry on with her other pet project.

"I was putting together another vintage car out of bits. The idea was to build something for Vintage Sports Car Club events. First a 3.5-litre engine came up for sale, then a friend had a chassis and I had loads of bits floating around."

It took a year to build, with the help of her boyfriend — also a crazed enthusiast — and when it was finished in 1989, she registered it as an AC chassis and has been circuit racing and hill-climbing it ever since.

As well as working on the Essex and the AC Unicorn, she found time to rebuild an old MGB from scratch, then an MGB GT and a 1972 MGB Roadster, her current runaround.

The Essex went in 1988 in favour, she hoped, of an Invicta. There was one small problem. Although the Essex returned a healthy profit, it was not enough to cover the £120,000-plus cost of an S-type Invicta with a 4.5-litre engine."

## 'I fall in love with all my cars — I have to'

She wanted the chassis from the 1.5-litre version to mate to a 4.5-litre engine. After months of hunting, she finally what she was looking for.

There was a lot of work to be done. "It had been totally mutilated over the years. It had a home-made bulbous body and a 3.5-litre Mark II Jaguar engine, which was all pretty horrible. The body was hideous, so the first thing I did was tear it off and strip the car back to a bare chassis."

She continues: "The main thing was I had the basis of what I wanted. I had also bought bits of an engine. Other bits were donated by friends, so over a couple of years I collected a complete 4.5-litre."

Building her Invicta was an arduous four-year labour of love and it left her virtually penniless. Finally, in July last year, she wheeled out her pride and joy.

"I get such a buzz from driving it. It is very different to drive from a modern car, mainly because it has a non-synchronised gearbox, but it is very powerful and quick for an old car. It has such personality."

"I am immensely proud of all my cars but I am particularly proud of the Invicta."

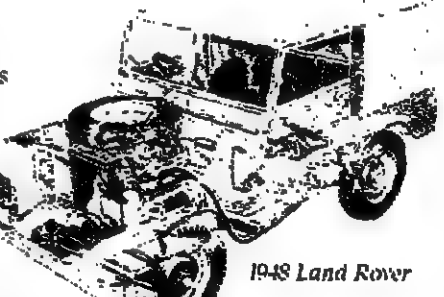
She estimates it could be worth more than £50,000, but the value is academic. She will never sell it unless she is utterly desperate.



Love in an old climate: Jo Moss, whose first vehicle was a 1948 Morris, reads, talks, lives and breathes classic cars

## THE TIMES Historic car print offer

Readers may buy prints of John Lawson's cut-away illustrations of the 1948 Land Rover, shown right, and the Aston Martin DB2.



1948 Land Rover

The prints are available in two forms:

- Unframed, 297mm by 420mm, on 130gm paper. Price £3.99 including VAT and carriage.
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### £2 OFF CAR SHOW AT BEAULIEU

An exhibition of all 12 cars featured by Lord Montagu and sponsored by Car 95 is running until the end of September at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Present this panel at the gate and one adult will get a £2 reduction on the full admission price.







**In the latest of our series of rural rides, Alan Hamilton takes the high road through the awesome West Highlands**

### CAR 95 ROUND BRITAIN TOURS



**Romantic ruin:** Castle Stalker, near Appin, stands on one of the finest stretches of the spectacular Argyll coast

1 On impact, a pyrotechnic device pulls in the buckle, tensioning belt

2 On impact, belt is pulled tight

3 Strain on belt is then transferred to load limiter built into floor mounting

4 Load limiter controls travel to minimize injuries

Steel strip in load limiter tears away progressively, thereby relieving pressure on upper part of body

mountain and seascapc, strewn with memories of the country's often violent and bloody history.

Beginning at Dumbarton, lowing town on the Firth of Clyde that was widely regarded as the site of a huge quantity, the route follows the northern shore of the firth, opening up ever-wider vistas of sparkling water, to the neat and formal town of Helensburgh, birthplace of John Loe Baird and boasting in the Mill House, high above the town, one of finest examples of the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Glasgow architect.

The road heads northwest into the hills following the shores of Gare Loch and Loch Long. Near the village of Sharpston, it crosses the high

spilt fences of the nuclear submarine base at Fastlane. Above and ahead tower the knobby peaks of the Arrochar hills, which offer a challenge to the day's scramble for the fit and well-equipped.

At Arrochar the route heads west over the pass of Rest and Be Thankful, and down to Loch Fyne. This is the heart of Campbell country, a name not to be mentioned in the presence of a Macdonald, but its wildness is softened by the warmth of the Gulf Stream and by lush gardens, including Strone and Strathgarry, which lie down the loch is Inveraray, its castle the seat of the Dukes of Argyll, chieftains of the Campbells. Its public rooms contain much of inter-

est, including relics of the outlaw Rob Roy Macgregor. In the grounds is a museum recalling how 250,000 men were trained here for the D-Day landings. Nearby Inveraray Jail has been transformed into an unusually good theme museum.

At the picturesque and busy Crian Canal, the route turns west for the first time in Scotland's deeply-furrowed western seaboard and its pattern of offshore islands, which can be breathtaking at sunset.

At the western end of the 9

mile canal the route turns north, skirting the wide Firth of Lorne, to the village of Kilmartin, heart of the 6th-century kingdom of Dalriada. There are Bronze Age standing stones and burial cairns in the valley, and fine medieval grave slabs in the churchyard. Climb above the village to Carna Mor, a fine view to the long narrow ribbon of Loch Awe.

A few miles north, the route takes a brief detour west across the Atlantic (well, a tiny bit of it) on a stone bridge the island of Seil, and on to the

further island of Easdale  
 where a museum records what  
 was once one of the world's  
 biggest slate quarries.  
 Oban, capital and main  
 ferry port of the West High-  
 lands, is a bustling town  
 which repays a day or two  
 stay to sample a Caledonian  
 Macbrayne sailing to one  
 of the many inner isles.  
 Appin, with its romantic  
 ruin of Castle Salsburgh,  
 is a lovely stretch of argyll  
 coastline. At its northern end  
 the route turns inland, and  
 heads for the long, dolomitic  
 vale of Glencoe, where Can-  
 nels massacred MacDonalds  
 in 1692, allegedly for their  
 tardiness in swearing al-  
 giance to the Protestant king  
 William of Orange. Glencoe

and heading down Glen Falloch to Loch Lomond, Britain's largest body of fresh water. The route follows the main road down its western shore offering a new glimpse of woodland, water and distant hills at every turn, with the great bulk of Ben Lomond across the water.

If, when you regain Dunbarton's skyline of distilleries, the weather has been unkind, console yourself with the thought that it is Scotland's sometimes execrable climate that enables the creation of such fine whiskies.

Based on *AA Tour Guide to Britain*, £9.99 from AA shops and bookellers.

*Treasures of Britain — Weekends and p10*

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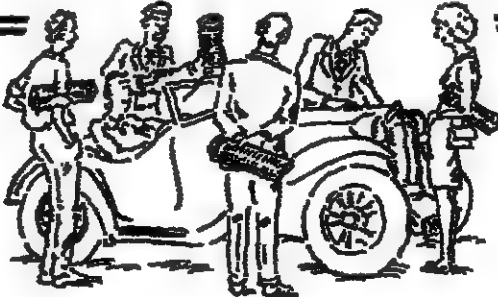
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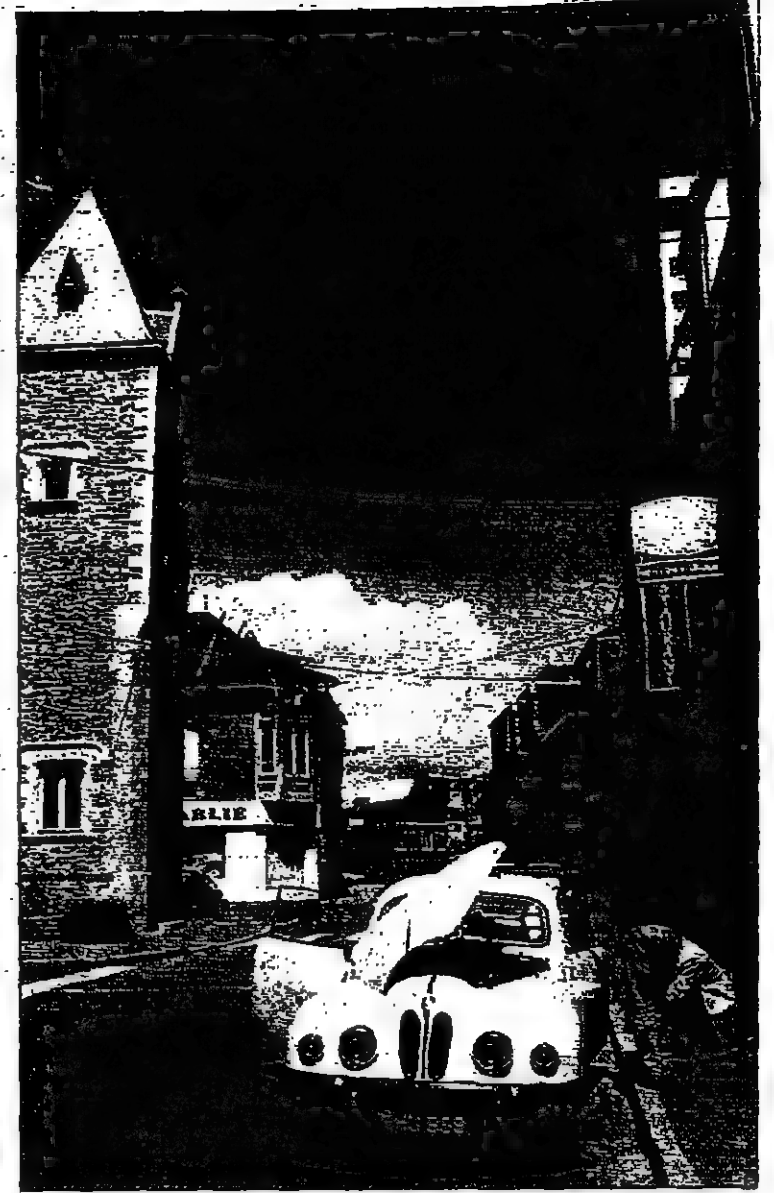
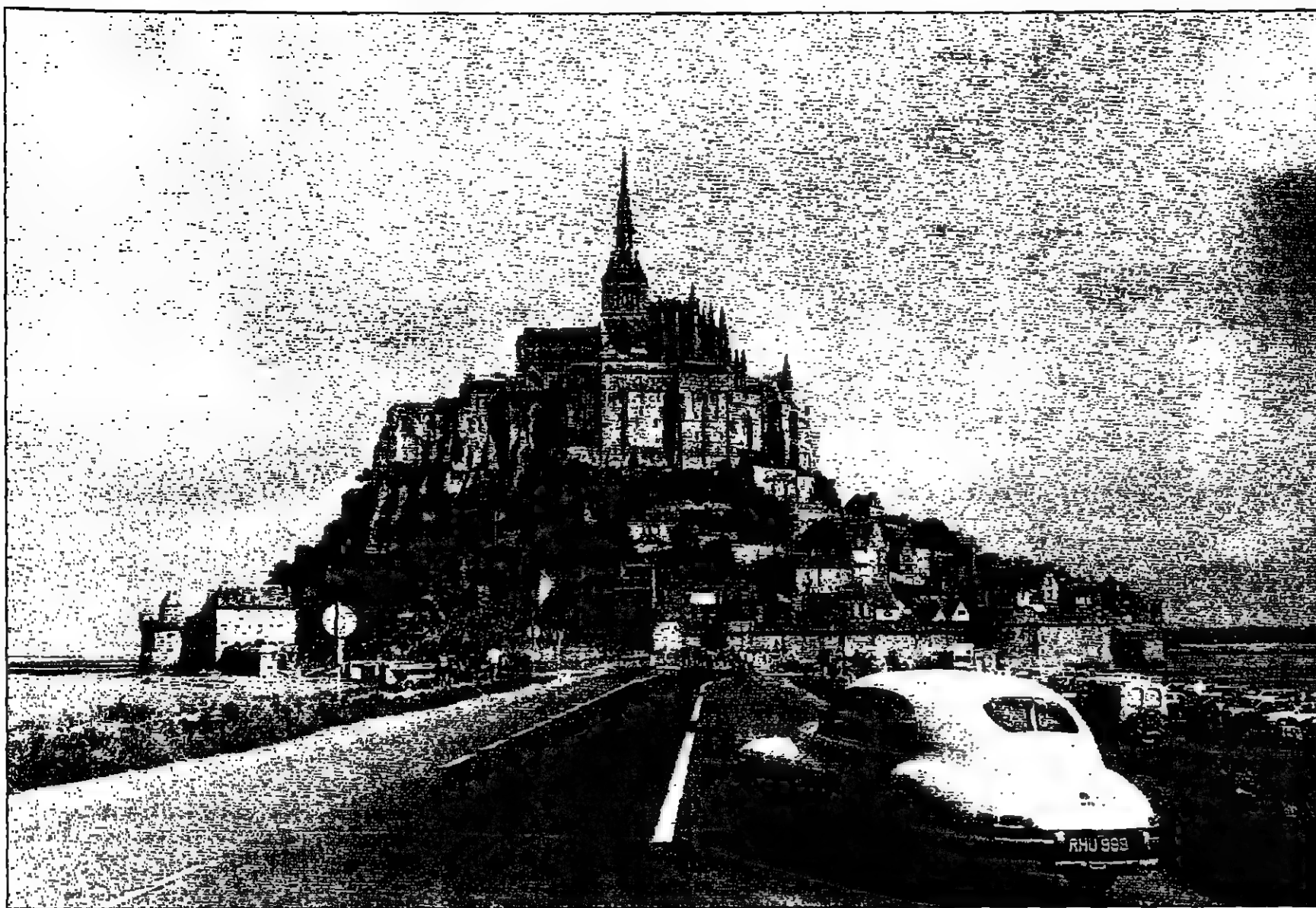
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When Bristol owners drive to France, with characteristic style, it is no ordinary trip. Hugo Blick reports



The Bristol 403 which carried the original goodwill message, en route to Bordeaux at Mont St Michel, in Normandy; and, right, a roadside check to keep things in order — but the rear-window blind provided the only problem

Forty years ago, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Bordeaux's liberation and its winning with Bristol, T.A.D. Crook, the owner of Bristol Cars, despatched one of his classic 403 saloons to Bordeaux carrying a goodwill message from one mayor to the other. Last weekend, the anniversary was marked by a repeat performance using the same car.

#### MAY 24

I am at the Mayor of Bristol's Mansion House reception for the Bristol Owners' Club with Rupert Otten, the debonaire Terry Thomas character who now owns the historic 403. I was to be his only co-pilot on the drive to Bordeaux, but we are joined by a young woman who he introduces as his "nurse". A total of 17 other Bristols are taking part in the mission.

I am standing with T.A.D. Crook himself — who founded the Bristol Car Company in 1945 and still oversees its production of a handful of cars per year. The first of the series, the 400, was launched in 1947, based on the BMW 326 series and assembled at the company's aircraft works in Bristol. A light ash frame encased in a steel skin, aerodynamically designed and fitted with a 2-litre engine, ensured that this was the first British-built car to finish the Monte Carlo Rally in 1948.

If you ever have trouble with your Bristol, take it to Mr. Crook at the company's showroom at Olympia, west London. He will not only

diagnose the fault but tell you exactly when and where the car was built.

Whipping himself up to a whisper, he is bemoaning the legal requirements of modern motoring such as seatbelts and airbags. In his day (he was a formidable racing driver at Brooklands), if you pranged your car, the massive chassis was all the cushion you'd need.

The Mansion House courtyard is filled with Bristols — 403s, 401s, 411s, 405s, 406s and 402s. Geoffrey, the club secretary, is giving directions. He insists we all take the A4, A36, A350 and A31 to Portsmouth. With so many numbers, I feel the need for an accountant. In fact, that's exactly what most of the members are, including my driver "Rotten", although he also deals in fine art.

To echoes of "Oil pressure OK?", "You couldn't spare a cup of petrol?", "Good Lord, is that a Bristol Zagato 406Z Coupé?", we pull out of the courtyard, waved away by the Mayor, and all roar off in separate directions, handlebar moustaches flapping in the slipstream.

Everyone makes it to Portsmouth: that is, everyone but the club secretary. "Anyone seen Geoffrey?" Having followed his route by numbers, it doesn't seem to have quite added up.

Cherbourg, Geoffrey, we discover, is with us again; he



Destination reached: "Rotten" and his Bristol on the Bordeaux quayside, after "pootling" down at 95mph

and his wife had merely stopped off somewhere for a "quick snifter" en route.

#### MAY 25

We're on our way down to Bordeaux. "Rotten" is "pootling" the 403 along at 95mph. Occasionally, "nurse" feeds him a medicinal toffee. I'm in the back staring to feel in need of medical attention myself from the fumes of the leather-bound luggage.

The last time the car made this journey I wasn't even born. Yet with the engine

developing 100bhp at 5,000rpm, we effortlessly weave our way through traffic, like a shark through a mackerel shoal.

We rendezvous at a little auberge Geoffrey knows. And as we sit there waiting for the others to arrive, I get some idea of what it must have been like waiting for the Spitfires to turn up. "I saw Pudgy back there. Looked as if he was blowing some oil."

Then there's the local police force to contend with. They

must greet the yearly migration of Bristols to France like lions waiting for wildebeest to pass. Some members seem to have been caught so many times and paid such high fines for speeding, I wouldn't be surprised if they were made guests of honour at the next highway opening.

#### MAY 26

Like their moustaches, the war can hang heavily on members of the Bristol Owners' Club. We are purring regally towards Bordeaux, when Rotten

suddenly screeches to a halt. "Did you see that?" he roars. Apparently one of the villagers hadn't bothered to acknowledge our car. "If it wasn't for us," Rotten growls, "he'd be in jackboots!"

Finally we arrive and when we are parked outside the Mairie, exchanging letters with the deputy mayor, I too become convinced that this is the very Bristol 403 that "freed" Europe. That is until I'm told that Bordeaux still has the same mayor it had 40

years ago and that he didn't bother to turn up then either.

At the celebratory lunch I sit next to one accountant who seems to prefix every sentence with: "I think you'll find..." and end it with "...like my three aeroplanes." He wears a baseball cap with the legend "Bristol Owners' Club". I ask him why he has a Bristol. He replies: "I think you'll find it's the understatement..."

One of the few who is not an accountant, a Woosterian doctor, thinks owning a Bristol is just a "jolly good wheeze!" But a cabbie, whose son is a rich floor trader, frankly sees his as a sex symbol.

#### MAY 27

"Rotten" has taken the "nurse" off for a picnic. So, on the way back, I've become temporary navigator in a 411, driven by a man who plays the bagpipes, and I'm feeling like Dudley Moore in "Monte Carlo Or Bust". But driving towards a chateau near Cherbourg, despite the roaring exhaust, we are sitting in heavy silence. I've made a mistake on the

map. "Never mind," my pilot quips. "After all, it's not a race." I glance at the dials — we're doing 110mph.

Throughout the journey we keep stopping to buy cases of wine. Towards the end, the boot is so weighed down I can hardly see over the bonnet. But when we finally draw up to the chateau it still looks as if we've "won". Until, like Wilson on the Scott expedition, I notice something glinting in the distance — the metallic lustre of a 405 coupé. "Damn," my driver sighs, "knew I shouldn't have stopped for the Medoc!"

#### MAY 29

I've been left alone in the chateau waiting, like the last schoolboy at boarding school, for Rotten to pick me up. When he finally arrives he reports a problem.

Something was bound to happen. After a thousand miles on this trip and almost a quarter of a million over the last 40 years, his car's rear-window-blind pulley has just snapped — all that has gone wrong with any of the cars.

As we finally glide on to the ferry at Cherbourg, I ask Rotten if he's ever thought of selling. "Never!" he booms. "What price history?"

## Baptism of fire as the rumble hits the jungle

The author files her first report on the fortunes of two Britons competing in the gruelling Camel Trophy 95, a 19-day test of man and machine through the rainforests of Central America.

The Camel Trophy has proved a baptism of heat, humidity... and more heat for Mike Oxley and Rob Connor.

Fifteen days into the competition, they are travelling through the heart of what was the ancient Mayan civilisation, from Belize through El Salvador and Guatemala. Oxley and Connor had to hack and plough their way through tropical rainforest, cope with steep mountain passes in their Land Rover Discovery and even float their vehicle on a raft across a crocodile-infested lake.

The 20 international teams have suffered mosquitoes and heat that has had them all in a permanent sweat, with little relief when sleeping rough. The trip has, however, provided a remarkable and unforeseen reward. They set out from Belize to travel to Ixcar, Rio, a Mayan city, where they were to work for 40 hours on an archaeological dig. The teams crept out a site about half a mile wide and started digging



Claire Evans reports from Guatemala on British progress in a gruelling endurance test

Two days later, they turned up a ceramic bowl which has been dated to 750AD.

Though hard work, the dig was light relief in a tortuous journey along routes that are little more than boulder-strewn tracks. Torrential rain has been a problem, swelling rivers and lakes and turning tracks into torrents.

From the dig, the teams set off through Mayan villages, hindered by dozens of fallen trees which had to be winched or pushed off the tracks.

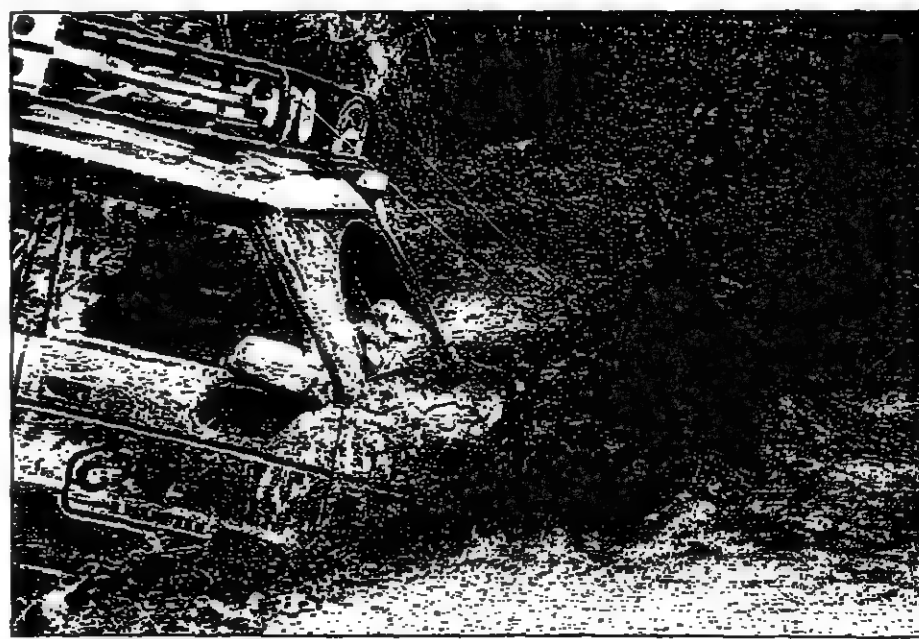
The Discoverys have proved tough and reliable... but even they could not cross a lake which barred their way. The

vehicles were loaded on to inflatable pontoons fitted with outboard motors, but the whole exercise of getting the vehicles up and down the sandy banks at each side took more than three hours. The team was exhausted, soaking wet... but extremely pleased with itself.

On the other side, technology took over from brute force as competitors were issued with a route book so they could travel alone. Each Discovery, though, is also fitted with a satellite navigation device. The vehicle sends a signal to the satellite, which then plots the Discovery's position on a computer screen on the dashboard.

Organisers still took the precaution of putting marshalls at checkpoints in case drivers lost their way on the 460-mile drive from north to south Guatemala.

Oxley and Connor joined forces with two teams from Russia and America. On the stretch from Flores, they were heading up into the mountains when the track turned into a treacherously narrow line of white rubble. By midnight, they had still not reached their campsite at Coban, the rough roads taking their toll on the Land Rover. The Discovery blew a rear tyre as Connor



Some like it wet: the Discoverys have been ploughing along tracks turned into torrents

negotiated a steep stretch of boulders. He managed to steer it to the top of the hill where he and Oxley changed the wheel.

It took 12 hours to cover 150 miles and they finally collapsed into their tents at 3.30am. There was little relief, though: they were up after just two hours and the Britons, with their new-found Russian and American colleagues, set off again, climbing higher into the mountains throughout the day.

As they approached the peak, the dirt track snaked round hairpin bends with 1,000ft drops on one side and sheer rock faces on the other. After 120 miles and nearly 11

hours of torrid driving, the international trio of teams arrived at Santa Cruz del Quiche and stopped for a well-earned meal in a local restaurant, before heading off towards Guatemala City as night fell.

The real test of their driving skills came at 11pm that night when a thunderstorm flooded much of the route down the mountains. Connor was caught out by a stream which had turned into a torrent. He drove into it not realising how much it had swelled and a front wheel dipped into a pothole and hit a

rock, making the Discovery leap 3ft into the air.

Less than an hour later, while the three Discoverys slipped and slid down a rocky track, the Brits heard a Mayday call from the Russians. They had slipped off the track into a ditch and were sliding along unable to stop, with one side of the vehicle scraping the rock face. They managed to stop and reverse out.

It's been a gruelling two weeks and officials say next week will be even tougher. If the rainy season hits hard, Oxley and Connor will need every scrap of new-found experience to see them through.

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# FILMS

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2 TELEVISION

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Selling is a tough business

David Fusteder makes his pick of the week's programmes across all channels



Journalists and actors, including Martin Amis, Anthony Hopkins and Peter Dinklage, are the stars of the week's programmes across all channels.

Green Isle

Next year's equivalent of the next generation of the... The Green Isle... The Green Isle... The Green Isle...

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THE TIMES JUNE 3 1995

RADIO 2

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4 FILMS

THE TIMES JUNE 3 1995

# Movie moguls and other mobsters

David Robinson makes his Pick of the Week from films across all channels and John Marriott (below and opposite) rounds up the best of the rest. We give transmission times in good faith, but they may be altered after we go to press. Videoplus numbers for every film can be found on pages 6 to 19.

## TWO WEEKS IN ANOTHER TOWN

**Channel 4, 12.55pm, Saturday, 4 June**  
TEN years after making Hollywood in *The Godfather* and *The Godfather Part II*, the same team (producer John Huston, director Vincente Minnelli, writer Charles Schnee) and star Kirk Douglas turned their informed and amused gaze on the production of a typical, troubled American runaway production in *Home of the Brave*. Douglas plays a director trying to make a comeback, and Edward C. Robinson, a director losing his grip on the production, his marriage, his health and his temperate funds (Huston, Schillino, Clavette, Hamilton).



HOME OF THE BRAVE: Kirk Douglas in a scene from the movie.

**11 Hollywood abroad.**  
The management of his entire with her cynical illegitimate cousin (Francesca Reilly). Her zealous efforts to improve the world around her and to reclaim a monstrous group of thieves, beggars and whores lead to disaster and her own undoing. Banned by Franco, who saw it, rightly, as an attack on his own hypocritical Spain.

## SOUTHI RIDING

**Monday, 17, 10.55pm.**  
IN A period when British films kept strictly to the studies and home counties accents, Victor Saville took his cameras to the Yorkshire dale to film Wilfred Holby's novel about political machinations in local government. Ralph Richardson plays a local squire with a lecherous daughter (Glynis Johns) who is locked away. Edna Best is wonderfully believable as the schoolteacher with whom he falls in love; an astonishing cast show how exemplary British acting could be 60 years ago.

## THE PUBLIC ENEMY

**Tomorrow, Sunday, Channel 4, 12.05pm.**  
WILLIAM WELLMAN's gangster classic provides a fascinating companion to Scorsese's *Goodfellas*, made 60 years later. The theme—two kids irresistibly attracted by quick cash and power—is the same, and so is the ultimate disillusion and the violence. The role of the fresh blood climbing to the top of the criminal tree elevated James Cagney from wing

## RAAGUDY MAN

**Today, Saturday, Sky Movies, 10.30pm.**  
HIS first film as director, former designer Jack Rakk directs the wife Sissy Spacek, as a woman alone in a small Texas town in 1944. Having walked out on her philandering husband, she struggles with a job as a telephone saleswoman, with a job as a telephone saleswoman, with a job as a telephone saleswoman.

## GOODFELLAS

**Today, Saturday, Channel 4, 10pm.**  
Today, Saturday, Channel 4, 10pm. Today, Saturday, Channel 4, 10pm. Today, Saturday, Channel 4, 10pm.

## SATURDAY

**JUNE 3**  
The Pick of the Week, above. An affair to remember (1957, BBC 2, 10pm, 10 min). Employing a huge reveal on video, due to a steep rise in the price of the film, it is a masterpiece of the genre.

## SUNDAY

**JUNE 4**  
The Pick of the Week, above. An affair to remember (1957, BBC 2, 10pm, 10 min). Employing a huge reveal on video, due to a steep rise in the price of the film, it is a masterpiece of the genre.

## WORLD SERVICE

**6.00am** Morning Report, 6.00am. The Breakfast Programme, 6.30am. The World Service, 6.30am. The World Service, 6.30am.

## RADIO 4

**6.00am** Morning Report, 6.00am. The Breakfast Programme, 6.30am. The World Service, 6.30am. The World Service, 6.30am.

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## RADIO 24

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Sibling rivalry taken to the limit

AKIRA KUROSAWA's spectacular and dramatic 1955 epic, *Ran* (SBS, 10.30pm), is a tale of sibling rivalry taken to the limit.

will be in each other's throats. He is angry, dispirited, and the old man is forced to seek refuge in a castle to another with a Nishikido (third from left) above play and his sister, eventually losing his mind. One of the brothers is killed (not daughter), two are captured in their tribes, but the youngest, under his brother's

THE TIMES JUNE 3 1995

VARIOUS

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OFFERS



Tickets to the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition  
Page 11

PLUS: Treasures of Britain, page 10

BOOKS



Daniel Johnson on the literary classic  
Page 14

PLUS: Pevsner by Dr John Habgood, page 14

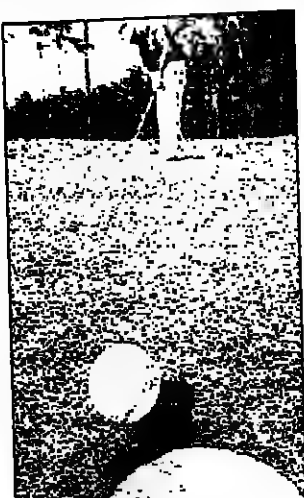
SHOPPING



Barbecues: how to be a sizzling success in the garden  
Page 13

PLUS: British charcoal on sale again, page 11

TRAVEL



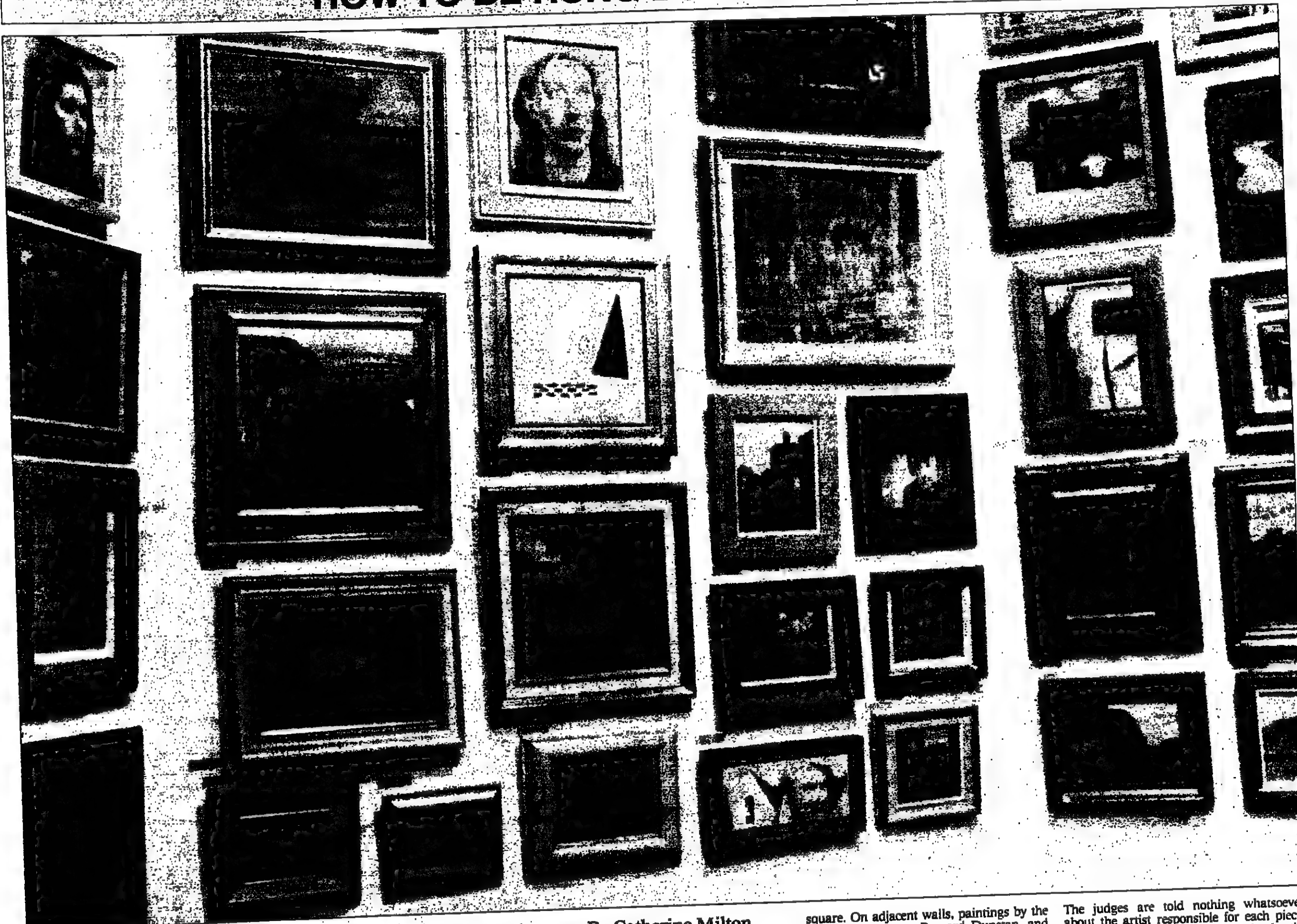
Where in the world to play a round of golf  
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PLUS: Stars and sleaze in Los Angeles, page 23

# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 3 1995

## HOW TO BE HUNG BY THE ACADEMY



Everybody knows that the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition is an amateur affair. Any fool can get work hung. Aunt Jerry's watercolours, toddlers' scribbles and bits of old plank left lying around by builders — every year the Academy is littered with atrocious daubs and random messes. Everybody is completely wrong, of course. Amateurs have almost no chance of making it into the showcase for British art which comes to London's Piccadilly once a year. More than 11,000 hopeful artists of all standards from across the country submitted work this year,

but only about a tenth will get to see it in the exhibition, which opens tomorrow. And of these thousand or so pieces, *The Times* could find only one which is the work of a self-confessed amateur. It is pictured above hanging at this year's Summer Exhibition, a boat's bow slicing through the ocean. It is a small painting, but no less extraordinary for that. Sir Reginald Bennett took 55 years to complete his six by four inch canvas. He made the first sketches in the Atlantic during the Second World War on board *HMS Cheshire*, a passenger liner turned warship, to take his mind off the U-

By Catherine Milton

boats. Both sketcher and sketch survived a few torpedoes. Perhaps that's where Sir Reginald found the courage to face the critical harpoons of the Royal Academy's daunting Selection and Hanging Committee. A snip at £175, his piece hangs in a small room on the south side of the gallery beside that of Diana Armfield, a Royal Academician. The room, usually one of the most popular in the exhibition, is traditionally hung with smaller pictures, less than a foot

square. On adjacent walls, paintings by the late Helen Lessore, Bernard Dunstan, and Mick Rooney, all British artists, dangle price tags of between £2,000 and £6,000. Sir Reginald thinks it a wonderful wheeze. People try for years to get their work into the exhibition and even established artists can be found wanting by one of the art world's most exacting élites. The committee, a group of Royal Academicians chaired by Sir Philip Dowson, their president, sits in a solemn semicircle. A row of Royal Academy School students stand in front of them, passing works down the line to be evaluated.

The judges are told nothing whatsoever about the artist responsible for each piece, but they can spot the work of a trained artist immediately. By the same token, a dabbler stands out. The RA says they look purely for artistic merit. Mostly they seem to find it in the work of professionals. This year they found it in Sir Reginald's painting. Sir Reginald, like his Summer Exhibition achievement, is a rarity. At 83, he is a retired psychiatrist and politician; he was the Conservative MP for Gosport and Fareham

Continued on page 3, col 1

**Our wonderful  
fabulous, irresistible new menu.  
What if you don't like it?**

We like to think that our new menu has something for everyone. We've got noodles from China, pasta from Italy, fajitas from Mexico and baltis from Birmingham. But just suppose you fancy something

else, what then? Simple. If we've got it, we'll cook it for you. We have 65 hotels nationwide and rooms cost less than £70 per night. If you'd like to book, contact your travel agent or call us free on 0800 40 40 40.

FORTIS  
POSTHOUSE





Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

## FILMS

Geoff Brown

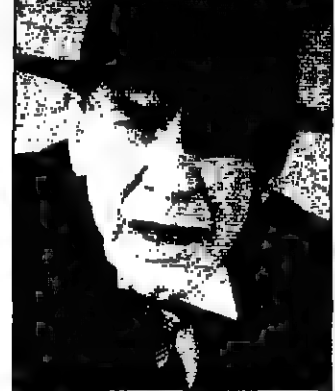
**DON JUAN DEMARCO** (15): Any film that teams Johnny Depp with eccentric veterans such as Marlon Brando and Faye Dunaway is an intriguing prospect; and Jeremy Leven's quirky first feature about the rehabilitation of a suicidal incarnation of Don Juan does not disappoint. All three actors give of their best, while Leven's romantic spirit and sympathy for society's outcasts give the film a warmth and charm.

**Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **MGMs Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 6705); **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233); **Screen on Baker Street** (0171-935 2772); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343).

**ED WOOD** (15): Welcome to the crazy world of Edward D. Wood Jr., a director of vast ambition and little talent, whose Z-grade follies of the 1950s have become cult classics. Tim Burton's wonderful film recreates his life with awesome detail and reverence. But this is not just a banquet for film buffs. The portrayal of Wood (Johnny Depp again) is immensely endearing; and the film has a strong emotional core in Wood's devotion to the washed-up actor Bela Lugosi, magnificently played by Martin Landau.

**Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **Gate** (0171-727 4043); **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691); **MGMs Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **Odeons Kensington** (01426 914666); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914058); **Richmond** (0181-332 0030); **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332).

• More films, page 6.



Martin Landau as Bela Lugosi in Tim Burton's *Ed Wood*

## THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

**A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE:** Bernard Hill, one of our most powerful yet under-rated actors, is as rare a sight in London these days as a mountain lion or eagle; so please do not miss the opportunity to catch the elusive Scouser as a Brooklyn longshoreman painfully over-enchanted with his own niece. Arthur Miller's cautionary tale of incestuous obsession and betrayal ends its run on Sunday June 11. **Strand Theatre, Strand, London WC2** (0171-930 8800). Evenings: tonight, Tues to Sat, 7.45pm; matinees: Sat, Sun, 3pm; Thurs, 2pm.

**THE FIREAISERS:** Two sinister strangers move into a solid citizen's attic, fill it with fuses and vats of petrol, and simply grin and shrug as he tries to convince himself they are not the arsonists terrorising their city. With Frances de la Tour as his politely terrified wife, Max Frisch's classic parable about the rise of Nazism, Stalinism and other such evils still has power to sting today. **Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6** (0181-741 2255). Evenings: Tues to Sat, 8pm; matinees: Sun, 4.30pm; until June 17.

• More theatre, page 6.

## OPERA

Rodney Milnes

**RISE AND FALL OF THE CITY OF MAHAGONNY:** The last new production of the English National Opera season is Kurt Weill's opera — or is it a musical? Until recently, Brecht's libretto might have seemed hopelessly dated, but laissez-faire capitalism, market forces, the pleasure principle and the crime of poverty are right back on the menu, and Weill's snappy tunes are happily timeless. Big guns are at play in WC2: Declan Donnellan working at the first time, with his regular designer Nicholas Ormerod; Sir Edwards, who had a great success with the piece at Scottish Opera, in the pit; Lesley Garrett in pursuit of whisky, dollars and boys, with Sally Burgess as Mrs Begbick, and the tenor Robert Brubaker as the lumberjack from Alaska who fatally misjudges the spirit of the times. **Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2** (0171-632 8300). Thurs, 7.30pm. (2)

**LA TRAVIATA:** Nuccia Focile was the "other" star of Pavarotti's Albert Hall concert last month: the Italian soprano, who charmed



Every seat a winner: the veteran entertainer Rod Stewart will be rasping out songs, both old and new, in a series of stadium concerts around the country — see Rock (below)

everybody as the ingénue Nannetta in Peter Stein's staging of *Faust* for Welsh National Opera, is singing Violetta here for the first time and for the same company. Alfredo is her real-life husband, Paul Charles Clarke, and Jason Howard sings Germont. Carlo Rizzi conducts. **New Theatre, Park St, Cardiff** (01222 394844). Wed 7, 7.15pm. (2)

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

**PAT METHENY:** A master of harmonic textures, Metheny has built a substantial career out of a soft-focus improvisatory style that blurs the lines between jazz, New Age, and rock. The formula is eminently commercial, yet he is just as capable of playing gritty hard bop with Joshua Redman or engaging in stonal duets with the arch-modernist Ornette Coleman. The Coleman project, *Song X*, managed to stir up acclaim, derision and bafflement among critics. He has returned to a more conventional stance on *We Live Here*, his group's first studio release in years. **Worth booking in advance.** **Corn Exchange, Wheeler Street, Cambridge** (01223 357851). Sat 10: **Festival Hall, South Bank, London** (0171-928 8800). Sun 11, Mon 12.

**GREENWICH FESTIVAL/DUNDEE FESTIVAL:** The re-discovery of the Jamaican-born tenor player Andy Hamilton — who was over 70 when he made his recording debut — shows that it is never too late to

start afresh. Since he once made a living entertaining on Erroll Flynn's yacht, it is only appropriate that, at Greenwich, he should be performing on a riverboat (Sat 10). Other jazz highlights include a season of films headed by Jean Bach's quirky *A Great Day in Harlem*. Dundee's four-day event opens with the oblique saxophone of Tommy Smith and continues with the suave vocalist Suzanne Bonnar. Tam White appears on Friday while Courtney Pine continues his experiment with streetwise dance rhythms on Saturday. **Greenwich Festival, various venues (0181-317 8687), today to Sun 18.** **Calders Dundee Jazz Festival, Dundee Rep, Tay Square (01382 223530), Wed 7 to Sat 10.**

## CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

**SPITALFIELDS FESTIVAL:** Hawkenmoor's magnificent Christ Church is the venue for an exciting music festival each June. With three composers as artistic directors (Michael Berkeley, Anthony Payne and Judith Weir), there is bound to be much new music, but there are also high-quality Baroque choral concerts, as befits the venue, and the film premiere (June 11) of Tony Palmer's new film about Purcell, with a script by the late John Osborne. Of the first week's events, note particularly next Friday's 9pm concert, which includes the London premiere of Thomas Adès's *Arazulana* as well as John Mark Ainsley singing Vaughan

Williams's *On Wenlock Edge*. **Christ Church, Commercial Street, London E1** (box office and details, 0171-377 1362). Jun 7-28.



Christ Church, London: venue for the Spitalfields Festival

**STRIKE UP THE BAND:** That is the title given to two concerts by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under the ebullient Andrew Litton, which offer American music, familiar and unfamiliar. For example, Wednesday's programme has Gershwin's *An American in Paris* and Sylvia McNair singing Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*, and also pieces by Piston and Griffes; while, on Friday, Copland and Bernstein are preceded by Roy Harris's *Third Symphony* and Samuel Barber's *Piano Concerto*. **Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2** (0171-638 8891). Wed 7 and Fri 9, 7.30pm. (2)

David Sinclair

**ROD STEWART:** His new album, *A Spanner in the Works*, is a pretty dreary affair and reports of the 50-year-old singer collapsing from exhaustion after one of his shows earlier in the year do not sound too encouraging. But whether hurling his microphone stand around like a drum majorette's baton, booting footballs into the crowd, or just singing in his famously raddled rasp, Stewart is a veteran entertainer who knows how to work up the biggest crowd into a mood of feverish bonhomie. Accompanied by his 12-piece band and a 22-piece orchestra, all these ingredients will be engaged in the round with reserved seating on all sides. "Every seat a winner," as the old route likes to put it. **Fitfordie Stadium, Aberdeen** (01224 632328). June 8: **Barrow Stadium, Glasgow** (0141-227 5511). June 10: **Gateshead International Stadium** (0191-478 5555). June 11: **Wembley Stadium, Middlesex** (0181-900 1234). June 17: **Macclesfield City FC, Maine Road** (0161-832 1111). July 22: **Aston Villa FC, Villa Park, Birmingham** (0121-633 3964). July 23.

**SOPHIE B. HAWKINS:** Her role models include Marlene Dietrich and Madonna, and Sophie B. Hawkins's music is every bit as strong and sensual as her personality. Her recent hits, *Right Beside You* and *Don't Tell Me No*, both taken from last year's album,

*Whaler*, have more of a commercial gloss than her striking 1992 debut *Tongues And Tails*. But on stage she is an athletic and idiosyncratic performer. A trained percussionist, she is likely to end up hammering away on a huge drum or rolling about on the floor, depending on how the mood takes her. Her only previous British show, in 1992, was aborted when rain flooded the stage. These gates thus qualify as a long overdue concert debut in this country. **Ronnie Scott's, Birmingham** (0121-643 4525), tomorrow; **Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12** (0181-740 7474), June 5.

Richard Cork

**MARK WALLINGER:** Last chance, this weekend, to catch an entertaining and provocative one-man show at the Serpentine Gallery. The horse riding in Hyde Park provides an ideal context for Wallinger's work. Several large paintings of top-class racehorses dominate the first room. They look, at first glance, like a homage to George Stubbs. But then the divisions appear. The front and rear halves of each horse come from different stallions. Wallinger does not hide the disjunction, and in a four-screen video installation he subtly exposes the theatricality of the royal procession at Ascot. Pedigree of another kind is revealed here, dissected by an artist with a keen eye for the class-conscious reality of Britishness.

**Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2** (0171-402 6075), until tomorrow. (2)

**THOMAS LAWSON:** Last chance, too, for a show of new paintings by a Scottish artist now based in Los Angeles. His pictures at the Anthony Reynolds Gallery are all inspired by a recent trip to Vienna. Lawson's response to the city's architecture, and its old madhouse, merge with his interest in the prison cell where Egon Schiele was once incarcerated. Each picture is a diptych, its two panels separated by a thin strip of wood or plastic. The colours are as unsettling as the subjects, which suggest a Freudian nightmare. Anguished, mask-like faces loom out from the canvas, along with Poe-like ravens in silhouette. Lawson often changes styles within each work, ensuring that the results are restless, unpredictable and disturbing. **Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street, London W1** (0171-491 0621), closing today.

## DANCE

John Percival

**TURNING WORLD:** Continuing London's stimulating festival of dance from abroad: well worth catching. The 10 Dancers Ensemble from the Netherlands Dance Theatre ends at Sadler's Wells tonight, likewise O Vertigo from Montreal on the South Bank. This week's new arrivals are the Compagnie Karin Vyncke from Brussels in *Could Can Be* and Sasha Waltz and Guests from Berlin in *Tears Break Fast*, both at the Lilian Baylis Theatre, also the Tolada Dance Company from Berlin in *Havel Bazel* and Leine and Robana from Amsterdam in *The Circle Effect*, both at The Place. **Sadler's Wells and Lilian Baylis Theatres, Rosebery Ave, London**



Last chance to see 10 Dancers Ensemble at Sadler's Wells

**EC1** (0171-733 6000), today, 3pm and 8pm, 7.45pm other nights; **Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1** (0171-928 8800), tonight, 7.45pm; **The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1** (0171-387 0031), Tues 6, Wed 7, Fri 9, Sat 10, 8pm.

**RASPUTIN:** For one night only, Irak Mukhamedov dances at fresco at Hampton Court in a new work created for him by the choreographer Natalie Volkova. Leslie Collier joins him for the *Sleeping Beauty* pas de deux. **Paris Opera ballet stars Elisabeth Platel and Nicholas LeRiche** also make a rare London appearance. **Hampton Court Palace, East Molesey, Surrey** (0171-344 4444), June 9, 9pm.

## MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

**JAPANESE STUDIO CRAFTS:** Partly because of the constant interchange between East and West, there is surprisingly little in the V & A's new show that would need to have been made in Japan. Although the lacquered objects look oriental, the same techniques are much used in the West in Post-Modernist design, while most of the more advanced glass and pottery could come from any American craft fair. But the quality throughout is superb, and the section devoted to large fibre works is brilliantly inventive. Note particularly the cabbage patch before and after harvest, made entirely from dyed work gloves. **Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7** (0171-938 8500). Mon, noon-5.30pm; Tues-Sun, 10am-5.30pm, until September 3. Admission £4.75, concessions £2.75. (2)

**WOOD ENGRAVING HERE AND NOW:** The Society of Wood Engravers was founded in 1920 and after a period in abeyance was revived in 1984. Since then it has flourished, and the work of its members has expanded in all sorts of directions, both stylistically and technically. This show celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Society, and presents the work of 15 artists, ranging in age from Monica Poole (b. 1921) to Anne Desmet (b. 1964). Several of them are busy and well-loved illustrators — Andrew Davidson has done book jackets for Ted Hughes and P.D. James — while Colin See-Paynton is dedicated to large-scale abstractions. Vitality is everywhere. **The Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford** (01865 278000), Tues-Sat, 10am-4pm; Sun 2-4pm, until August 8.

## Congregation in search of a place to worship

On Ascension Day, Ruth Gledhill visits a barn awaiting spiritual conversion



**ST MARY** Magdalene is a homeless church in a churchless neighbourhood, an area with 9,500 souls and no church building of any denomination in which to worship. Undaunted, the Church of England nevertheless appointed a vicar three years ago, and the Rev Nicholas Flint has set about raising funds to convert the derelict barn in the field next to his vicarage in Bewbush, Crawley, into a church.

On Ascension Day we went in to the dusty gloom, lit by candles and the fading sunlight streaming through the cobwebs and the 400-year-old wooden slats. We sat on the few chairs and makeshift pews arranged around the floor of hard mud, straw and concrete. Chicken wire and metal posts adorned the thick oak beams, and in the darkness at the far end I could just make out a large wooden cross laid on its side. The estimate of £300,000 needed to restore this barn into a building fit to be a church seemed wildly optimistic, although £97,000 has already been raised.

When guitarist Sue Groom led off with a series of evangelical worship songs, we stopped gossiping about the state of a world which could build a village without a church and waited for the procession. Zoe, a 3-year-old with curly blond hair and a banner four times her size, led the five clergy, including one woman dea-



Members of the congregation and clergy processing into the "church" of St Mary Magdalene

## AT YOUR SERVICE

con, to the wooden altar. Whether it was the loss of the banner or the terrifying subsequent reading from Daniel, with its visions of fiery flames and a slain beast, "its body destroyed and given over to be burnt", that scared her none could say, but she promptly burst into tears.

The Bewbush area has three times the national average of one-parent families and Mr Flint, aged 34, lives in a tiny, modern red-brick box with an even smaller garage, where his growing congregation meets during the week. At weekends they worship in the frequently vandalised community centre and, on special festivals such as Ascension Day, the barn is brought into service.

*I will enter his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, we sang as the procession came in. We*

continued through the liturgy of the word and the communion. The peace, where all shook hands and kissed cheeks, must count as one of the warmest ever in an Anglican church. We heard the warning of the sermon, where Mr Parker explained the sin of Adam and Eve, "who wanted to grab at being Gods". We could all be guilty of such an exhibition of unholy power. "We want to be the equivalent of Gods. That is because somewhere in the heart of all of us we want to be loved, valued, have worth, to be recognised before we enter oblivion. What better way to obtain that value and worth than to strut around like Gods?"

Mr Flint in his prayers urged

God "to strengthen those in this neighbourhood who are their homeless church. Help us to allow our problems to become your opportunities. In all that we face, we thank you for one another."

The sun set, bringing a deepening chill into the barn-church and reminding us of our powerlessness and need. There was no vestry, and after a search around the premises to say goodbye, I discovered the five clergy divesting themselves in the vicar's garage, bizarrely resembling the fluttering of doves in a dove-cote.

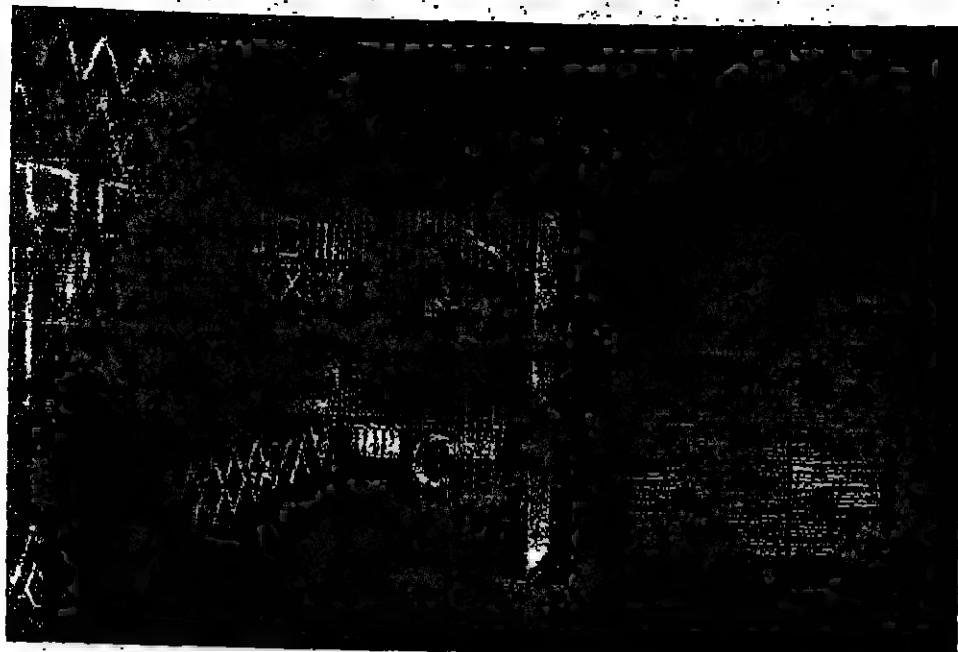
*The Barn Church, Francis Edward Way, Bewbush, Crawley, West Sussex, RH11 8GG. Tel: 01293 851758.*

John Russell Taylor



# COVER STORY

3



Girl with Birds, New York, in gouache, by Leonard Rosoman can be seen at the RA

## 'It is the painted memory of his glory years'

Continued from page 1  
for 30 years and permanent private secretary to tain Macleod for 13. He retired in 1979 and became a wine consultant. Sir Reginald has only ever painted in his spare time — the bit left over from his passion for messing around in boats. He once sold a picture of a chateau to its owners for a crate of Champagne Nature. But he is mystified as to why they bought the work which, he says, was not very good.

Y et today his painting, *Endeavour*, hangs alongside the work of famous artists in the largest open exhibition of contemporary art in the world. This year visitors will enter the exhibition via the RA's central hall which is dominated by Newton's *Apple* sculpture by Eduardo Chillida. Elsewhere, works by Tony Cragg, an acclaimed British sculptor, and Roy Lichtenstein, the American pop artist, as well as prints by Allen Jones can be seen.

"It is very pleasing to have my painting recognised. I really did take a lot of trouble over it," Sir Reginald says, when we talk at his Thames-side house in Chiswick, west London. But his sense of satisfaction at being a rare amateur included in the exhibition is muted. It is a good joke. But nothing more than a pleasant pat on the back. The real meaning of the picture is far deeper: it is the painted memory of his "glory years" as a young amateur sailor on yachts which challenged for sailing's most glamorous prize, the America's Cup. The painted memory is framed by a larger memory of the end of all that: fear and death and of war.

Sir Reginald is a big, bluff man for whom the word hearty could have been invented. He likes his food, belongs to White's, and came to painting through boredom rather than artistic hunger. Having won a scholarship to Winchester (his civil servant father, Samuel, certainly could not have afforded to pay) and then to New College, Oxford, he had nothing much to do during the final two terms of his school years. Nothing, that is, except to watch lichen growing on the 600-year-old walls of his school. "So I thought I would just paint the corner of the courtyard. It

seemed to come out quite well," he says. So well, that the art master, Richard Gleadowe, (later Slade professor of Fine Arts at Oxford University) gave young Reginald his one and only art lesson. It seems to have profoundly influenced the boy — the thrust of the lesson was on how to draw a ship's lines. Gleadowe was well known for befriending boys who showed a keen interest in sailing. The master would regularly invite several boys to go sailing with his family on the River Heilford in Cornwall. Already an enthusiast for boats, Reginald's interest in the sport was confirmed. By 1936, he had won his sailing blue at Oxford and made the reserve bench of Britain's Olympic team, as well as a host of racing prizes.

The student's reputation caught the attention of Sir Richard Fairley, an aircraft manufacturer and keen sailor, whose yacht, *Shamrock V*, needed crew. Sir Reginald jumped at the chance. In 1930, under the ownership of Sir Thomas Lipton, the wealthy grocer famous for his tea, *Shamrock V* was beaten in the America's Cup. *Shamrock V* had not been fast enough, but Thomas Sopwith, the British aircraft designer who built the *Canal*, was determined to launch a successful British challenge. He bought *Shamrock V*, raced it and, when he thought he had cracked the design, he ordered *Endeavour* to be built and sold the older boat to Fairley.

Sir Reginald was a regular second helmsman and navigator on *Shamrock V* for two seasons in 1934 and 1935, frequently racing against *Endeavour*, whose bow he inevitably came to recognise at close quarters. But there was an edge to his fun. By now Sir Reginald had joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. "I knew war was coming. Fairley, who was making aircraft for the RAF and the Naval Air Service, had spies in every single German aircraft factory. I knew Hitler had a huge air force. Our appeasing Government was never going to stop them."

Even as he threw himself into his races, he knew there was only one possible outcome. "We were going to have an all-out fight against an air force that was far superior to ours. I was determined to



Norman Blamey's oil painting *The Settle* (left), was among the chosen ones, and Sir Reginald Bennett (above) with *Endeavour*, 55 years in the making

make the most of having an easy life before a conflict I might not survive." The memory of that easy life sustained him through the war, which he spent in the Fleet Air Arm as a medical officer and pilot. "Racing on *Shamrock V* I got wonderful views of *Endeavour*; beautiful lines which I could not forget. The painting always brings back to me how much fun it was, racing in those enormous, powerful, very fast and very preny-looking boats. I remembered that, sitting rolling about in the deep ocean, waiting to be torpedoed for weeks on end."

The first time Sir Reginald was torpedoed was in 1940, near Tory Island off the coast of Donegal, Ireland. He had started his sketch of *Endeavour*, but fortunately the ship was not sunk. "We were towed back, stern-first, into Belfast, so I did not lose all my possessions." The second time, *HMS Springbank*, a flak ship with a fighter aircraft launched by a catapult on board, was sunk. While the sketch was safe on shore, the sketcher was a thousand miles west of Brest in the Atlantic. His lifeboat was picked up by a small merchant ship called *The Cowfold*, which ferried him back to Liverpool.

After the war, Sir Reginald chose to pursue a medical career. His involvement with



naval aviation, particularly combat exhaustion, led him into psychiatry at the Maudsley Hospital in London. By 1950 it seemed natural to move into parliament — "the greatest institution for group therapy". Once more at the centre of tumultuous events, Sir Reginald started painting again. "In oil, this time, because you can paint out mistakes."

Sir Reginald paints because he can, he says, and because he enjoys it; he likes to keep a record of places he had enjoyed visiting. It is also relaxing because of the total concentration required: "Over the years, I worked on *Endeavour*, from time to time when I found the canvas again. I did a little bit here and a little bit there. I had imagined it during the war and I got the shape of the bow right in the roughs, but it was quite difficult to get the spray right with the sun shining. It took a long time," he says, chuckling.

It was Sir Reginald's daughter, Belinda Hadden, who encouraged her father to submit his work to the Royal Academy. Mrs Hadden, a writer, had been selected for the 1993 Summer Exhibition. He missed the deadline last year, but this year he wrote in well ahead of time for the entry forms and instructions.

Sir Reginald took three of his pictures in on April 20. One, *The Faraglioni*, was of the rocks off Capri; the second,

*Jamaica-bound*, showed the bows of a clinker-built lifeboat; the third was *Endeavour*. Chuching his brown-cardboard wrapped offerings, he found the long, sloping passage to the back entrance of the Royal Academy buildings: "I kept calm about the whole thing," he says.

The letter telling him of his success arrived on May 16, a Tuesday. "The Royal Academy sent me a standard letter asking me to collect two of the three pictures I had submitted. There was another *pro forma* mentioning the third, giving the terms on which the picture would be kept and returned if needed." Then he rang his wife, Henrietta, to whom he has been married since 1947. He knew she would be sitting under the hairdryer at the hairdresser's, the same as every Tuesday. "I thought she would be highly amused, and she was."

He says: "We celebrated with a small glass of something at lunchtime. I told some of my friends, who were all most surprised. It is very pleasing to be so regarded."

● The 227th Summer Exhibition opens tomorrow, until August 13.

Cover photograph and main picture on this page by MARK HARRISON

All other photographs courtesy of the ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS



On display: *Self Portrait* (1984) by Francesco Clemente

### THE EXHIBITION

THANKS TO the film *The Madness of King George*, George III has faced a fairly hostile press over the past few months. Here was a public defecator, a talker to pigs and a blasphemer. But many art viewers aware that the King, in a fit of sanity, granted the charter that founded the Royal Academy of Arts in 1768.

The first annual exhibition was held in 1769 in a hired room on Pall Mall, and it consisted of only 136 works. By the following year, the Academy had secured rooms in Somerset House, where the exhibition was displayed on the top floor — a handicap for some notable visitors. Queen Charlotte had to stop for breath on each floor, and Doctor Johnson saw the ascent as a major test of endurance.

The exhibitions became immensely popular. Prints by Rowlandson and Martin show mobs of visitors fighting to see the pictures. By 1837 the Academy had moved to Trafalgar Square, where it remained until the move to its present quarters, Burlington House, in 1868. Since then, the exhibition has continued, even through the two world wars.



Charter: King George III

### GETTING HUNG

● The Academy will only accept three works for consideration from each artist. A handling fee of about £10.50 is charged for each work, which has to be paid before an entry form can be issued. Full-time art students are given a 40 per cent discount.

● Works may not be posted in. They must be delivered to the Academy itself on the appointed days and times. Each picture must be in a separate frame, which must be strong, as inadequately framed works will not be received. Sculptors may send photographs of their sculpture to the Assistant Secretary.

● Disallowed works include those which have already been publicly exhibited in London, copies of works, and works by those who have been dead for longer than a year.

● The Academy charges 30 per cent commission on all works sold. Be sure to bear this in mind when pricing your work.

● For further information and entry forms, write to: The Assistant Secretary, The Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1. Envelopes must be marked "Summer Exhibition".

● The Summer Exhibition is presented in association with Guinness PLC. The Academy is open from 10am to 6pm (last admission 5.30pm). Full charge is £4.80, concessions are £3.50, 12-18 year-olds £2.50, and eight-11 year-olds £1. Tickets are available from the Academy, or from the First Call 24-hour booking line (011-497 9977).

GUY WALTERS

Ticket offer, page 11

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# Pathway to a vision of beauty

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, breaks the calendar rule to make structural improvements to his garden

In an ideal world everything in the garden gets done at the most suitable time of year. Structural changes, such as removing and replacing a large plant, should happen during the dormant winter months. But at that time, when plants are back to their bare essentials, without leaf or flower, it is difficult to envisage or remember how they look with summer growth emerging. Well, that's my excuse for deciding to carry out my structural changes now.

One change concerns the brick path which leads from our back door, up one side of the garden and between a spectacle-shaped border to the building where I work. The path also leads to a corner of the lawn beyond which is a large, overgrown honeysuckle covering the boundary fence. So far, the path has been purely functional. It has also been overgrown by a winter-flowering jasmine trained to one side and a lavender on the other.

Last year, my tentative steps to control the lavender's growth paid dividends: not only could we walk past it up the path without feeling we were battling through a jungle (irritating with a basket of washing) but it no longer overpowered the smaller plants around it.

This year, I have cut it down even more and, at the moment, it is an ideal, compact bush of new growth standing about 5ft high that will produce flowers in July.

Winter-flowering jasmine was never my favourite plant: I do not like bright yellow, and years without serious pruning had left it an untidy, twiggy mass. I did my best with some pruning in March, after it had flowered, but it still looked a shambles, so I removed it.

This drastic action transformed the view up the path, particularly

when I added a wooden trellis rose arch. A second arch is being completed by Ken Miller, who lives in the village and makes wooden garden structures and furniture.

The arch's wooden uprights extend 1ft below ground. Having dug generous holes, I set the bottom two inches of the poles in concrete, letting it set before packing in the earth as tightly as possible; however secure an arch may look when first put up, remember that it will only really be tested for stability when plants start growing up it, the summer foliage has been saturated with rain, and there is a brisk wind.

I want the arches to be decorated with climbing plants, but not completely covered, and so it was important to choose varieties whose growth I could control with yearly pruning.

I plan to have a rose up one side and a clematis on the other: the latter will be a *C. viticella* type that flowers from July onwards, after the roses have finished, and which can be cut down each year.

Initially, I thought of having different roses and clematis on the two arches, but decided this would look unbalanced. Instead, I will give the view continuity by repeating the same plants on both arches.

This is not the time to plant roses, even container-grown, so this summer I will compare candidates in other people's gardens and plant in winter.

However, I have planted the first of the *viticella*-type clematis — the *C. x triternata* 'Rubromarginata' that last week I mentioned buying from Stone House Cottage, near Kidderminster in Worcestershire — and I am planning to buy another clematis to put in against the second arch.

The 'Rubromarginata' should be



George Plumptre finishes off the first of two trellis arches that will bear flowering plants across a pathway

vigorous enough to reach perhaps 6-8ft by the time it flowers from July onwards. Its delicate, scented flowers, white with a pale violet or pink edging, will be shown off to their best when I can train the plants so that they are dangling from the top of the arch.

From the two arches, the view up the path will be completed by an ornamental placed on the far side of the grass, against the screen of honeysuckle. I have already clipped the honeysuckle to make a rough, arched niche in which I will position some sort of column to give

the feature enough height to be seen from the house.

I hope my alterations will show that you do not need grand spaces to make a vista. In a small garden like mine, a path might be nothing more than a means of access as this one was before. But, with a little decoration, it can be made to contribute to the garden's appearance and to add a new feature.

In a larger garden, the untidy, winter-flowering jasmine might have survived unnoticed, but I now realise the extent to which it created an eyesore in my tiny plot.

## WEEKEND TIPS

- When early hardy geraniums have finished flowering, cut off the stems to encourage them to flower again in late summer.
- Plant-up hanging baskets. Line with moss or coir and put a plastic sheet in the bottom. Use potting compost and set out plants; trailers at the rim. Put two capsules of the control-release fertiliser Osmocote in the compost to feed the plants.
- Plant out runner beans with double rows of supporting canes, to make an attractive screen.

## GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q A myrtle bush bought three years ago has been cosseted, but as yet there are no flowers. It is a hopeless case? G. Stott, Southport, Merseyside.

A Far from it. The common European myrtle, *Myrtus communis*, comes from hot Mediterranean countries and prefers summer heat. But it will survive outdoors in coastal areas around much of Britain, because temperatures are mollified by the sea. On Merseyside, I would not expect great results every year, as the average temperature and hours of sunshine are relatively low (I hope you have it against a south, sheltered wall). Now that it is established, it may be that you are over-cosseting it, producing nothing but soft, non-flowering wood.

Q Last year we grew some of the new *Surfinia* trailing petunias in window boxes, and thought they were terrific. We now hear they have been withdrawn from sale because of disease. Having had to grow them in the garden, are we safe to grow petunias again, or would it be better to plant something else this year? — J. and G. Smallwood, Stockport, Cheshire.

A By the sound of it, you had clean petunias last year, so it should be safe to have them again. Not all stocks of *Surfinia* petunias have been infected, and the trade has arranged to have the infected stocks destroyed. You will see *Surfinia* for sale, though perhaps not in the number or range of varieties previously expected, and these should be clean.

Several forms of virus have been found in *Surfinia* and other strains of trailing petunia, including those mosaic viruses which affect potatoes, tomatoes

and tobacco. In petunias, a virus manifests itself through curled, distorted, mottled or blistered leaves, and yellowing veins. Plants with these symptoms should be destroyed. Because *Surfinia* petunias are micro-propagated by cuttings rather than seed, a virus in parent stocks is transferred to the offspring. The anticipated vast market for *Surfinia* led to less than perfect anti-viral procedures being adopted by some growers, in order to meet the demand. The trade promises squeaky-clean *Surfinia* for 1996.

Q I bought some border phlox from a nursery this spring. They started to grow well but soon the leaves began to turn down at the edges and the growing shoots appeared to be deformed. What is the cause? — C. Smith, Dorchester, Dorset.

A It sounds like stem eelworm. These are tiny, translucent worms, or nematodes, only just visible to the eye, which live inside the plant; in the case of phlox, weakening it to the point where it struggles to grow, never mind flower. To clean up the plants, take root cuttings in the autumn (stem eelworms do not penetrate the root) and burn or bin the infected plants. Or, destroy them now and buy fresh stocks. To avoid re-infection, the new plants should be set in a position where phlox has not grown for some years.

● Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

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Stephen Jarvis meets an avid collector of lurid paperback fiction who never reads a word of his 20,000 books



Years of searching have filled Mr Chibnall's shelves with the likes of *Hell-Bomb Floozies*, whose blurb is typical: "Packs more excitement, more action, more corpses than ever before." His only interest is the artwork, title and blurb.

## Always judge a book by its cover

In 1749, the Earl of Chesterfield wrote: "Due attention to the inside of books, and due contempt for the outside, is the proper relation between a man of sense and his books."

One person who pays no heed to this is Steve Chibnall, the chairman of the British Association of Paperback Collectors, who owns 20,000 paperbacks, mostly crime fiction, and reads none of them. For him, the outside of the book is the only consideration: the artwork, the title, the blurb.

"The thing about paperbacks is that they're a commodity that includes the packaging," says Mr Chibnall, 45, a lecturer in media and cultural studies at De Montfort University, Leicester. "They tell a story, but they're wrapped in an amazing cover."

"My interest in paperbacks started in the late 1970s, when I visited a friend and saw he had framed gangster novels and hung them on a wall. The effect knocked me out."

Now, years of visits to charity shops and secondhand bookdealers have filled his shelves with the likes of *Hell-Bomb Floozies*, whose blurb is typical: "Packs more excitement, more action, more corpses than ever before." Other works reinforce the theme: *Cosh Boy*, *Corpse on a Coffin*, *The Cat Tastes Blood*. And he is still trying to plug the gaps in his collection, hoping to find *Juvenile Delinquent* by Roland Vane, the number one on his wanted list because, although he owns the original cover artwork, he hasn't got the book.

"Some of these books have got what I call jaw-drop titles,"

Mr Chibnall says. "Books such as *Me and My Ghoul*, or *Dopes on Dope*, or my all-time favourite, *The Human Bat versus the Robot Gangster*."

"I love the outrageousness of it all. There's this element of liking the despised."

To demonstrate the luridness of the genre, he picks up a copy of an American pulp magazine, *Spicy Mystery*, featuring a terrified blonde confronted by a green, skeletal assailant.

"Pulp magazines came out in the 1920s and 1930s and were the forerunners of mass-market crime paperbacks, with characters such as The Shadow and The Black Bat," he says.

"Pulps are difficult to find in this country, because they came to Britain only as ballast on American ships. But they're important because they sometimes feature the first publications of stories by Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett. I have an issue of *Black Mask*, published in 1934, with a story by Chandler. This one is worth about £100, but an average issue, without Chandler or Hammett, would be worth only about £30."

The most collectable author is the American Jim Thompson, who has "a very dark vision," Mr Chibnall says. "He describes crime from the perpetrator's point of view: there are unhappy endings and the whole of life seems like a misery." Thompson's *King*

Some books have got what I call jaw-drop titles, like *Me and My Ghoul*

*Blood* is the most valuable paperback published in Britain: never published in an American edition. American collectors would pay \$500 (about £320) for a copy in good condition. Other collectable American writers include Chester Himes, a black author who explores the lives of detectives in Harlem.

"Most paperbacks aren't worth more than 50p," Mr Chibnall says. "But the market for rare editions is driven by the Americans, who seem to have more money to spend and are more fanatical. They have half-a-dozen postal auctions every month."

Among British authors, the most eagerly collected is Hank Janson — not one man, but the name used for a series of 250 books produced by ghostwriters, from 1948 to 1971. A first edition Janson would be worth about £20-£50, assuming the cover was painted by Reginald Heade, the most significant British paperback artist. Original artwork by Heade is highly prized and has been sold at Bonham's in London. Mr Chibnall bought the framed artwork for Janson's novel *Lola Brought Her Wreath* for £1,100.

"The original Hank Janson author was Stephen Francis, who produced 50

gangster books under the Janson pseudonym," Mr Chibnall says. "The books are set in America, even though Stephen Francis had never been there, and so he got all the slang wrong."

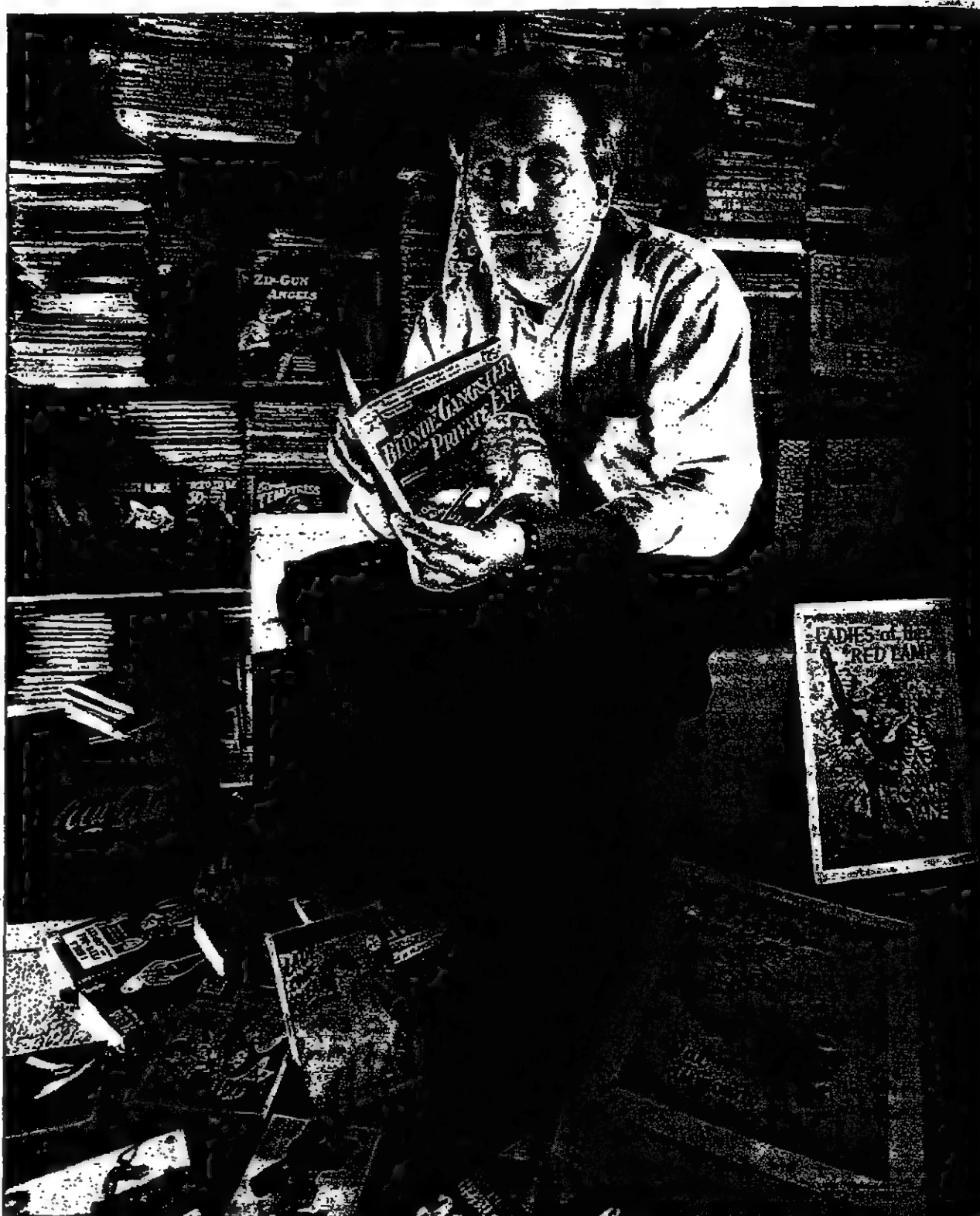
"They're collectable because in the 1950s the Home Office prosecuted Francis for threatening the fabric of society, though the books are innocuous by today's standards."

In the days before the Obscene Publications Act, publishers lacked clear guidelines on what the authorities would allow. "They had to learn by trial and error — mainly by whether the police seized the books as newspapers," Mr Chibnall says.

The result was self-regulation. Thus, no blood or pictures of knives were allowed on British covers. "One artist tried to get round that rule by having a woman clenching a pair of scissors," he says. "But the publishers painted them out... so there was an absurd picture of a woman stabbing with an empty hand."

Crime paperbacks, it seems, say much about society's values and attitudes, and Mr Chibnall regards collecting them as far more important than a mere hobby.

"You reach a stage where what you're doing is more like a project, or a mission," he says. "I regard these paperbacks as little capsules of history and, sometimes, it's like compiling an archive. That paperbacks are regarded as disposable makes the notion of preserving them attractive."



Steve Chibnall, chairman of the British Association of Paperback Collectors, who buys books solely for their cover artwork

### Fact file

British Association of Paperback Collectors, c/o Stu Scarborough, 15 Sussex Avenue, Milton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 0AF (membership £7.40 a year).

Steve Chibnall (01533 552558) is interested in anecdotes about paperback personalities.

A bimonthly magazine, *Paperback, Pulp and Comic Collector*, is available from Zardoz Books, 20 Whitecroft, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire BA15 4DJ, price £3.95 per issue.

Richardsons of Lincolnshire will sell agricultural and domestic bygone tomorrow, including wooden wheelbarrows, painted butter churns, dolly washing tubs and 19th-century model steam engines (£1,500).

Staffordshire and commemorative pottery on sale at the Padworth Court Hotel, near Reading, Berkshire, tomorrow, includes 12 Winston Churchill mugs and jugs (£15-£120). Top lot could be a rare jug commemorating the fateful visit to Ireland by the then Prince of Wales in 1861, after which he caught typhoid and died (£300-£500). Other ceramics auctions this week are at Phillips and Bonhams in London on Wednesday.

A three-day sale of furniture and pictures by Christie's Scotland in Edinburgh this week, includes Scottish paintings on Thursday, when a still life with ruminants in a vase by S.J. Peplie could fetch £30,000-£50,000.

Enthusiasts of Arts and Crafts and art nouveau can buy Liberty jewellery at £150-£800 at Phillips on Tuesday. About 30 items of furniture from the Hampshire Arts and Crafts workshop of Edward Barnsley range in price from £20 for a pair of bookends to £2,000 for a bow-fronted sideboard.

The books and paintings sale at Drewett Neate of Newbury, Berkshire, on Wednesday includes four sets of first edition novels by Anthony Trollope, bound in leather, estimated at £350-£450 per set.

The most expensive lot of the week could be a portrait of a tiger by the 18th-century animal painter George Stubbs, at Christie's on Thursday (£3 million to £5 million). The tiger, brought back from India by Lord Clive, was housed in the Duke of Marlborough's then-fashionable menagerie.

The London season of quality antiques fairs open with the *Olympia Fine Arts Fair*, starting on Thursday, and includes a number of silver tea caddies, bowls and cigarette boxes at Stephen Kalms's stand (£150-£400). Elsewhere, prices for furniture, silver and jewellery can rise into six figures.

A 1928 first edition of A.A. Milne's *The House at Pooh Corner*, inscribed by his son Christopher Robin to his nanny Olive, could fetch £700-£1,000 at Christie's South Kensington on Friday.

### SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

Richardsons, Spalding Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire (01778 422888), Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (0171 839 9060), Padworth Court Hotel, Special Auction Services, The Coach House, Midgham Park, Reading (01734 712949), Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171 629 6002), Bonhams, Monopole Street, London SW7 (0171 584 9561), Christie's Scotland, Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh (0141 332 8134), Drewett Neate, Donnington Priory, Donnington, Newbury, Berkshire, (01635 31234), Olympia Fine Arts Fair, Warwick Road, London SW5 (0171 370 8180), Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (0171 581 7611).

### SALEROOM



### THE TIMES/NPI

## SPECIAL EVENTS

WESTON PARK, Shropshire, is the venue for the National Hovercraft Race Meeting from 9am to 5.30pm on Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2. The meeting is part of the National series, in which drivers compete to become National Champion. Races are held over courses combining both land and water, providing exciting action for spectators.

The 17th century house contains a wealth of period furniture and art treasures. There are also formal gardens with Italian borders, an adventure playground, museum, a miniature train and a tea room in the old stables.

Admission: adults £3.50; children £2.00.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered two for one admission (adults only). Details: 01952 850207

KENTWELL HALL, Long Melford, Suffolk, is the setting for the Great Annual Re-Creation of Tudor Life, from 11am to 5pm at weekends from Sunday, June 18 to Sunday, July 16.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered £2.00 off the admission price. Details: 01787 310207

RANGER'S HOUSE, Blackheath, London, is hosting 'Dawn of the Divas' at 7.30pm on Thursday, July 6. The performance depicts the lives of the great Prima Donnas including Francesca Cuzzoni and Elizabeth Billington of the 18th century — sad, funny or tragic — revived with music, song and the spoken word.

Ranger's House is a handsome red brick



NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN SUPPORTED BY THE TIMES

villa built c. 1700, on the edge of Greenwich Park, with a splendid bow-windowed gallery. A new Architectural Study Centre is open in the Coach House, displaying a collection of domestic architectural features from London houses of the 17th to 19th centuries.

Admission: adults £9.00; children £7.00; OAPs £7.00.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered a third-off the admission price.

Details: 0181 8530035

Over the summer months the NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign will offer Passport holders the opportunity to visit many of Britain's most beautiful historic properties at special rates.

To launch this magnificent celebration of Britain's heritage, English Heritage is extending its special 'kids go free' weekend today and tomorrow to all Passport holders.

This will entitle every Passport holder to free entry to all English Heritage properties. All you need to do to take advantage of the special offers and concessions is to show your Passport Card.

The NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign, sponsored by pensions specialist NPI, in association with The Times, aims to widen interest in the preservation of Britain's heritage with specific reference to Britain's historic properties.

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## OUTDOORS

11

## My beef could win you a sirloin

The most gruelling, farming task of the year is behind us. No, not sheep tagging, pig castrating, muck carting or drain clearing. It is the annual festival of paperwork known as the Integrated Administration and Control Scheme, an abstract form of art which spans the European Community and pays subsidies to farmers large and small, even to me.

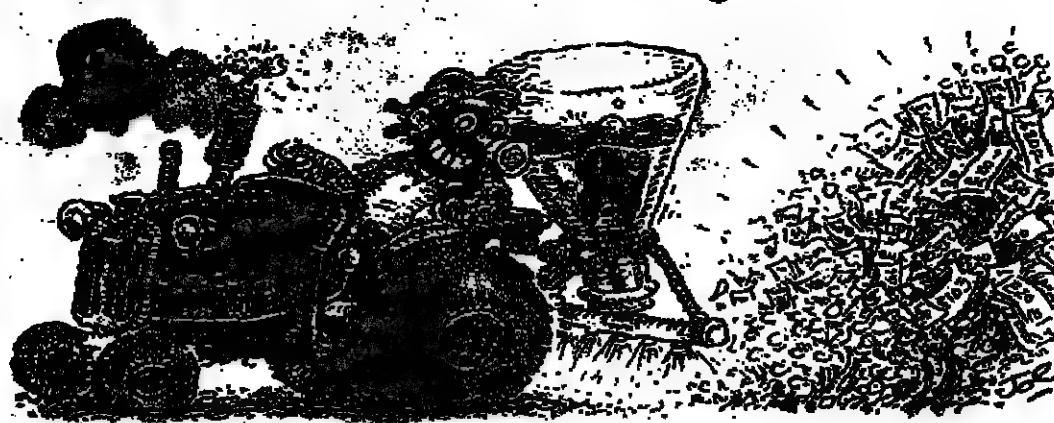
To draw cash from the kitty, a weighty form, aided and abetted by detailed maps, must be produced with 100 per cent accuracy, or penalties ensue. Even on my little plot, it is the best part of a day's work to provide the data.

However, no matter how close you press your ear to the ground, you will not hear the once most common of rural sounds: a grumbling farmer. No longer do farmers lean across the gate bemoaning the time spent with plans and calculators. In fact, I suspect growing numbers look forward to it, in the same way that hopeful families gather round the television set for the Lottery draw, except that with the IACS, as it is known, there is no gamble and there are no losers. As one distinguished writer in a farming jour-

nal put it: "The filling in of this form is probably the most cost-effective thing done all year."

Arable farmers are paid subsidies to compensate them for loss of earnings brought about by reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy. Please, do not yawn: there is an important point here, for these supposed losses of earnings need careful looking at. Take wheat for example. Farmers growing wheat can expect to receive arable aid of more than £100 per acre. That is simply a cash hand-out for growing the stuff. Easy.

Farmers were promised this money to ensure they did not suffer from the falling price of their wheat, which would be a result of European prices drifting downwards to meet lower world prices. At the time it was predicted that wheat prices might even halve, and the intention of these payments was to guarantee farmers a future. That's fine by me, or would be if that had turned out to be the case. However, if one examines the



current price of wheat compared with a year ago, you find that not only is it not drifting downwards as predicted, it is rising. The same with barley and potatoes.

But the subsidy is on the rise, too. There has been a 6.5 per cent increase in only three-and-a-half months. How many businessmen and women trying to make profits

in feel-bad Britain would envy even half a bonanza like that? Economists will no doubt tell me that it is to do with exchange rates, devaluations, green pounds and so on. I prefer to use the smile on the arable farmer's face as a more reliable economic indicator, and I

can tell you that round here their grins put Cheshire cats to shame. Not that I begrudge them the money; they did not invent the loony system. But before the joke wears off and the population at large realise how much this is costing us, it is worth looking at the kind of farming system we are getting in exchange for more than

half of the entire European Community's budget.

Read further into the farming journals and you will come across one arable farmer proudly describing his husbandry for the coming year: RA reduced-rate mix of flusilazole, tridemorph, and carbendazim kept disease at bay on the winter barley. The next step is a rolling plan using epoxiconazole to keep the awns clean. A "look see" ethephon treatment on a crop for seed given a high rate of nitrogen is also on the cards. Mildew has been dealt with fenpropidin and cyproconazole. Blight sprays are expected to begin this week...

It's food we are talking about. That murderous cocktail is raining down on what eventually will be slipping down our throats.

The farming industry has been trying to persuade us that it has cleaned up its act. The evidence is slender. There is no reason to believe that significant numbers of arable farmers, or livestock farmers for that matter, are moving

towards less intensive and more sustainable systems.

We have taken land out of production (called set-aside) to reduce over-production. Farmers, seeking profits to which they are as much entitled as any other business, have taken the opportunity to squeeze as much out of their remaining land as possible, hence the toxic rain that is drenching farms like the one described above.

How much more of this chemical muck can the land take?

It is ridiculous to suggest it could be halted overnight: all treadmills take time to come to a standstill. So, in a constructive spirit, I pose the following question and solicit answers from farmers, landowners, agronomists and anyone who thinks they have a solution. Please limit your reply to 100 words:

Why, given the sums of money now being paid to them, will farmers not move towards a farming system of which most of us would approve?

I have a fine sirloin of beef in my freezer from a beef animal that never sniffed a medicine in its life, and grazed only organic pastures. It will be the prize for the most convincing reply to my question.

## Burning desire to buy British

A marketing experiment by a DIY giant could help to revive the British charcoal industry

The future of British charcoal will be decided this summer — by shoppers in Britain's biggest DIY chain as they stock up for the season's barbecues. A trial marketing exercise is putting charcoal from local woods on the shelves of 28 B&Q stores in England, Wales and Scotland.

This is just the break that British charcoal has been waiting for. Before the last war, our woods were busy places: greenwood furniture-makers would turn poles on foot-powered lathes, hurdle-makers wove fences out of small-diameter hazel. Any suitable wood would be carbonised in portable ovens to yield charcoal — a high-quality fuel used for fine metal-working, glass-making and gunpowder manufacture.

But following the war our woodland industries fell into decline. Charcoal-making suffered especially as cheap imported varieties, most of it made from tropical forests and mangrove swamps, scooped up 95 per cent of a market increasingly dominated by chain retailers. Britain's few surviving charcoal-burners, typically small-scale back-woodsmen, have been left with a marginal trade.

Step forward the Bio-

regional Development Group of Carshalton, South London, a registered charity, and its wholly-owned Bioregional Charcoal Company (BRCC). Created as an intermediary between the hundreds of independent charcoal producers and the megastores, the BRCC has been appointed by B&Q as exclusive agent for its British charcoal purchases.

What this means, Poonan Desai, director of BRCC, explains, is that stores can order charcoal directly from their local producer, while all the paperwork is handled through head office and the BRCC.

Alan Knight, B&Q's marketing controller, says: "By going through BRCC, we have a single supplier and that's what we need."

The deciduous woodlands that supply the raw material for the charcoal should benefit from the industry's revival. England in particular has a vast resource of broadleaf woods that have received little if any management for more than half a century. Ancient coppice stools, formerly cut to the ground on a regular seven to 15-year cycle, have towered into high, dense canopies. Overgrown coppice woods provide a valuable haven for rare insects and fungi, but they also inhibit the growth of

young trees and exclude many spring flowers and butterflies. Provided sufficient areas are left untouched, cutting down the excess growth for charcoal will help to restore the balance of woodland ecology.

The figures speak for themselves, says Vince Thurkettle, market development officer with the Forestry Authority. Britain's 1.9 million acres of deciduous woodlands put on some 2.4 million tonnes of growth a year, only a third of which is harvested. It takes six tonnes of wood to make one tonne of charcoal, so Britain's entire 60,000-tonne-a-year charcoal market could be satisfied from 360,000 tonnes of wood — less than a quarter of what is now going to waste.

Once the old growth has been cut for charcoal, suddenly you've got a productive, viable coppice wood again," Mr Thurkettle says. "The poles cut from seven-year coppices of hazel, ash, oak or sweet chestnut can be used to create other products, from fencing posts and hurdles to greenwood furniture." Any surplus or low-quality wood, meanwhile, can always keep the charcoal kilns burning.

The experiment is also hav-



A charcoal-maker at the Weald open-air museum in Sussex. If B&Q's experiment is a success, British charcoal will be no longer be relegated to museums

ing an impact within B&Q itself. Each participating store has its own local charcoal supplier, despite B&Q's usual centralised approach. But this has brought unexpected advantages, such as renewed enthusiasm among staff.

"It's not just another boring product, but something special," Mr Knight says. "We've even got store managers going out at weekends to see where the stuff comes from." Another benefit is the suppliers' guarantee to clear the shelves of any unsold stock at the end of the season. Most important, customers seem to appreciate a truly local, sustainable and high quality product, despite its higher price.

Your £3.99 will buy you a 3kg bag of local charcoal, against 5kg of the imported product. But the British char-

coal is worth the difference: it is lightweight, easily lit and burns with a clean, steady glow. Few barbecuers that have tried it are tempted to go back to the imported variety.

That, at least, is what early results from the marketing trial indicate. The initial order of 2,500 bags of charcoal sold out by mid-May, and the shelves have since been filled up a second and in some cases

a third time. The Sheffield store alone sold 38 bags of local charcoal over its first weekend, and none of its imported competitors.

"The main thing holding us back is the supply," Mr Knight says. "Suppliers are producing 100 tonnes of charcoal a year but we are selling 2,000 tonnes."

"Our aim is to make sure that more than half the charcoal

sold in Britain is home produced within a decade — but it could be sooner than that."

OLIVER TICKELL/  
NICK NUTTALL

Some charcoal briquettes labelled "Made in England" are formed in this country but made from foreign charcoal dust. Buyers should examine the small print.

Best barbecues, page 13

## THE TIMES

## Save money on tickets for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition



The Matinee Jug by Mary Feilden RA (oil)

More than 1,100 works will be on show out of 11,000 submitted and most are for sale at prices from £30 to £67,000. The event, in association with Guinness PLC, runs from June 4 to August 13 at the Royal Academy galleries in Piccadilly. Opening hours are 10am to 6pm daily including Sundays, with last admission at 5.30pm.

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## Feather Report



Adult golden orioles have spectacular plumage

## On the trail of the elusive oriole

LAST WEEK Londoners had a chance of seeing a golden oriole. These brilliant birds were reported at Leytonstone, in Richmond Park and on Hampstead Heath.

I say Londoners had a chance of seeing them — but in fact they were far more likely just to have heard them. For golden orioles are among the most elusive birds in the world, darting as if they were invisible through the leafy tree canopies.

But when one is around, its call rings out clear and unmistakable. You may not see the bird, but you hear its cry on all sides. I can only describe it as a bell-like "woody-woop".

It is quite a common bird in Europe, but only about 30 come to Britain in most years. One or two pairs nest here, generally in East Anglia. The best place to look for them is a wood or windbreak of black Italian or other hybrid poplars. They cling their nest like a hammock in a tree-fork.

The adult males are spectacular, with golden-yellow bodies and black wings. The females and first-year males are green, with darker wings.

I have seen them in Spain, but have only seen one in this country. That was in some woods at Kington, in Oxfordshire, eight years ago.

I heard it calling round me in the evening, and went up and down looking for it until night came — but it was never where I had just heard it. I went out early next morning, and was overjoyed to hear it straightaway. But I had trapped round and round in pursuit of it for almost two hours before I finally found it. I saw it quite suddenly, swaying on the top of a cypress tree among some oaks, and it came back there several times afterwards. It was a green bird, a young male, not the golden beauty I had hoped for. But rare and secretive as the species is, I felt very lucky to see it at all.

DERWENT MAY  
What's about: Birds — young blue and great tits fresh from the nest. Twitters — great reed warbler, Weybourne, Norfolk; singing melodious warbler, Portland Bill, Dorset; cattle egret, Potter Heigham, Norfolk. Call Birdline 0891 700222 (40p a minute cheap rate, 50p other times).

## The new "Mark XII" stands the test of time

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## SHOPPING

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13

Barbecues don't have to be a flaming nuisance — choose the right model and you won't feel browned off



Various sizes of tumblers, £2.50 each, from Habitat

## How to be a sizzling success in the garden

Modern man still displays some vestige of the hunter-gatherer when it comes to barbecues. One the first hint of summer, suited workaday-men transforms himself into noble savage, displaying the virility required to blacken a few sausages over fossilised wood.

But, when the barbecue still isn't hot enough by 5.30pm, it's the noble savage who finds himself repairing the damage in the kitchen. Ob no, Noble Savage is saying that he should never have bought the damn thing in the first place.

It is too easy to fork out £20 in some DIY garden-store, barely adjustable and can handle little more than a couple of steaks, and that the flame doesn't conserve heat. For those who are serious about good ol' fire cooking it is worth paying extra for something a little more sturdy.

Gristopher Rai helps to run the two Barbecue Sheds, based in Richmond and Cobham in Surrey, which stock a wide range of barbecues.

Mr Rai, the proud owner of four different models, says: "Sadly, people in Britain regard using a barbecue as being rather like having a party; it becomes an event in itself. Many don't appreciate that you can barbecue on a more regular basis, as they do in America and Australia."

Mr Rai displays that very British trait of refusing to be beaten by the weather — he ekebarbecues his Christmas turkey.

The first, and perhaps most important consideration, is whether to opt for a gas-fired or charcoal-fired model. Mr Rai is dismissive of electric versions, regarding them as "a bit naff — upmarket conservatory jobs" and says that they go against the philosophy of barbecuing. Wood is only rarely used in barbecues in addition to charcoal; hickory chips add flavour in the same way as adding herbs such as rosemary.

Charcoal barbecues require more patience. Lighting the charcoal and bringing it up to good cooking heat takes skill and time — this is the stage when tempers can hot up as well. It is a good idea to buy a barbecue that has a hearth of mild cast iron. This defuses the heat better than steel and produces a more even temperature under the grill, cooking those otherwise-neglected sausages around the edge. Iron also retains heat for longer, ensuring that the food is cooked through properly.

one, always make sure that it is stable — cheaper barbecues are prone to wobble, which may mean that the chef gets burnt rather than the food.

Gas-fired barbecues are easier to light and to clean than their charcoal cousins, and they can reach the required temperature in around five minutes.

However, some maintain that gas-fired barbecues leave food tasting little different to that prepared on a gas cooker, but the consensus is that the gas is better.

Between the houses and the grill is a bed of lava rocks, which is heated by the gas. As the food is placed on the grill, the heat is transferred to the food.

Some gas models, such as the Ducane 1502, have a 42cm by 28cm hearth is good value at £54.99.

Most of these, as well as the charcoal models, can have rotisseries attached, which cost between £15 and £40.

There is always the option of building your own barbecue. Common sense dictates that it should not be erected near buildings or trees, although it should be adequately sheltered. It is essential to build it around a specific grill size — there is no point in constructing your edifice only to find that no grill will fit.

Also, make sure that the height of the grill can be adjusted.

A small, portable barbecue is useful for campers. Waitrose sells them at £4.95, ready packed with charcoal and a grill with enough space for about 12 sausages. But that is for small fry.

At £450, the Outdoor Chef barbecue may sound expensive but it boasts "the unique TriFlo baffle system", which ensures even cooking tem-

peratures and prevents flare-ups when fat catches fire. The process may be complicated to explain, but the device is easy to use, and is even good for cooking pizzas and paella.

There are cheaper models: the Ducane 1202 with a 310 sq in grill costs £399. Sterling produces the 801s for £129, with a grill of 20in by 12in, and Somagic's portable Orlando with a 42cm by 28cm hearth is good value at £54.99.



The Ducane 1502 gas barbecue, £499, has a 410 sq in grill. Gas-fired barbecues are easier to light and clean than charcoal ones, and can heat up in around five minutes



Above: the charcoal-powered Weber Master Touch, £200, with adjustable lid

GUY WALTERS

### Where to buy



□ The Barbecue Shops stock most of the barbecues mentioned above, except the Somagic series (from garden centres).

□ The Barbecue Shop, 469 Portsmouth Road, Cobham, Surrey (01932 866044); and at 139 Lower Mortlake Road, Richmond, Surrey (0181-332 7611).

□ Somagic (0151-336 8246); Ducane (0181-332 9595); Sterling (0151-336 8246); Outdoor Chef (01748 421006).

□ All the food pictured was supplied courtesy of Marks & Spencer.



Above: Sunflower jug, £15; glass, £5; frosted glass, £2, from BHS. Plate, £5, from M&amp;S; oval dish, £10, from Habitat

### Lamb Kebabs with Mint Dip

750g/1½ lb of boned fillet, leg end of lamb  
300ml/1½ pints of plain yoghurt  
1 tbsp of olive oil  
2 tsp of concentrated mint sauce  
Salt, freshly ground black pepper to taste  
50g/2oz cream cheese, softened

PLACE the meat in a dish. Mix half the yoghurt with the olive oil and half of the mint sauce. Pour over the lamb, cover and marinate for about one hour. Drain and thread the meat on to four oiled metal skewers. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Place over medium-hot coals and cook for about 15 minutes, turning frequently until the meat is tender. Meanwhile, in a bowl, mix the remaining yoghurt and mint sauce with the cream cheese. Add pepper to taste. Serve as a dip with kebabs. Serves four.

● Oil metal kebab skewers before use, but soak wooden skewers in water for 1 hour and do not oil them.

### Recipes

#### Spiced Chicken

8 chicken or 4 turkey drumsticks  
Marinade: 1 tsp of oil, 1 onion sliced, 1-2 cloves of crushed garlic, 1 tsp chilli powder, 1 x 250g/10½ oz can condensed cream of chicken soup, 1 tsp of mild curry powder.

PLACE the drumsticks in a shallow dish. Heat the oil in a saucepan and gently sauté the onion until soft. Add the remaining ingredients and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer for five minutes. Cool the marinade pour over the drumsticks, cover and leave for at least an hour. Drain the drumsticks and reserve marinade. Place on an oiled barbecue grill over medium-hot coals. Cook for 15 minutes, basting frequently with the marinade. Serve hot. Serves four or eight.

#### Whiting with Almonds

4 whole whiting, cleaned  
25g/1oz plain flour  
Salt, freshly ground black pepper to taste  
100g/4oz butter, melted  
50g/2oz flaked almonds, toasted  
Juice of one lemon

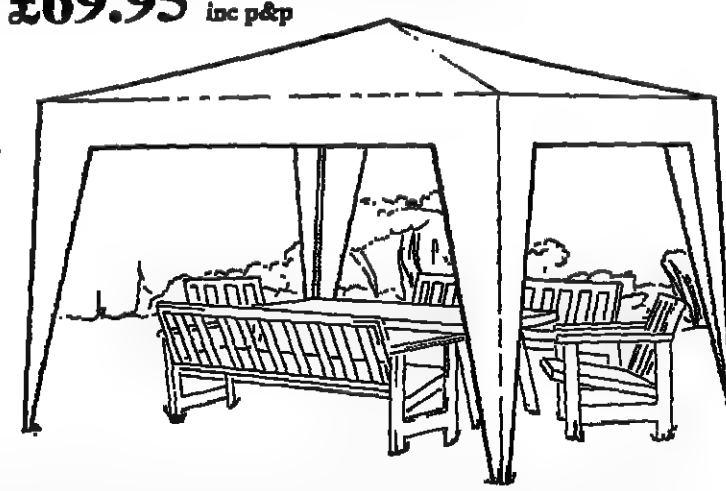
WIPE and dry the fish. In a shallow dish, mix the flour and salt and pepper. Coat the fish evenly in the seasoned flour and, if available, place each one sandwiched in a greased, hinged grill. Place on the barbecue grill over medium-hot coals and cook for about 20 minutes or until the fish flakes easily when tested. Turn frequently during cooking, basting with some melted butter. Mix the almonds and lemon juice with the remaining butter and pour over the cooked fish to serve. Serves four.

● More recipes in Barbecues by Anne Nichols, Hamlyn New Cookery Series, £9.99.

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Make the most of the summer months with this superb gazebo, which provides shade from the sun, and also shelter from the occasional summer shower. Perfect for anyone who enjoys outdoor entertaining.



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## BOOKS

## Deliverance from nowhere

A divorced mother and poet has the courage to see her life clearly

THE BOX GARDEN  
By Carol Shields  
Fourth Estate, £5.99

the rug slipped out from under them somewhere along the line. "Deliver me, deliver me from whatever it was that did this thing to me, robbed me of my courage and brought me here to this point of time, this mark on this nowhere map, this narrow bed."

Divorced from a husband who seems to have vanished entirely, Charleen holds herself steady against the pillars of her son, her underpaid job, and her correspondence with Brother Adam, a cloistered divine gripped by a faith in the

healing properties of grass — the sort that grows on your lawn. But Charleen's mother — tight-lipped, tight-fisted — is, shockingly, to be married, and the trip that Charleen takes to the wedding turns out to include discoveries of a

most unexpected kind. The wonder of Shields's prose is that for all its tight focus, it is never narrow. Charleen, a published poet, has given up writing for fear of becoming one of the "pome people", "the ones for whom no experience is too small: brushing their teeth in the morning brings them frothing to epiphany". There is no frothing in *The Box Garden*.

but there is epiphany in Charleen's skittery, endearing narrative voice. She claims she lacks bravery, but it takes a special kind of courage to see a life as clearly as she sees her own. It is Shields's gift to illuminate that elusive valour.

ERICA WAGNER

## Why the camera always lies

Two lavish volumes filled with alluring star portraits prove that film is all about fantasy, says  
Gerald Kaufman

CHRONICLE OF THE CINEMA  
Edited by Robyn Karney  
Dorling Kindersley, £29.95

MAGNUM CINEMA  
Introduced by Alain Bergala  
Phaidon, £39.99

While it is commonly accepted that the camera cannot lie, the fact is that the camera cannot tell the truth. Recently, at film premieres, I happened to see Tom Cruise and Liam Neeson, two stars whose almost drab presence away from the camera contrasted dramatically with their magnetic impact on screen.

It is this contrast which has caused stars with disastrous private lives — unlike Cruise and Neeson — to cherish their moments before the cameras. *Magnum Cinema* describes how the doomed Marilyn Monroe "simply loved being photographed. Being photographed was a way of letting herself be caressed and appreciated". *Chronicle of the Cinema* quotes the director Joseph Mankiewicz recollecting of Monroe, "the camera loved her". Monroe even gave a ceremonial blessing to Henri Cartier-Bresson's camera, stroking it and pretending to sit on it.

The camera's dependable lack of realism is stressed again and again in these two massive volumes. The director Jean-Luc Godard states that "the cinema... is part of the cosmetic and masks industry"; a caption in *Magnum Cinema* refers to the cinema's "timeless and magical ritual"; a sneaked picture shows the ultra-macho John Wayne filming on location with a horse made out of cardboard; and a poster for the 1934 film, *Spitfire*, makes even the young Katharine Hepburn seem sexy and seductive.



For Monroe, being photographed was a way of letting herself be caressed. "The camera loved her," said the director Joseph Mankiewicz.

Film is about fantasy, and these books never let you forget it. Here in *Chronicle of the Cinema* is a lady named Lya Lys (in Buñuel's *L'Age d'or*) sucking something indefinable but indubitably obscene. Here is Jean Harlow looking positively censorable in a poster for, of all things, the "multimillion-dollar air spectacle", *Hell's Angels*.

Here is Richard Dix (in a poster for the Western, *Cimarron*) depicted in an off-the-shoulder shirt revealing pectorals that would arouse the envy of Jane Russell or Jayne Mansfield. Here is the staid Irene Dunne (in *The Silver Cross*) apparently massaging the even staidier Joel McCrea. Here is

someone disconcertingly named Acquanetta making a perhaps unique and certainly alluring appearance in the title role of the 1944 masterwork, *Jungle Woman*.

Although *Magnum Cinema* is a compilation chosen from the work of some of the great realistic photogra-

phers who worked for the Magnum agency, its contents demonstrate the way in which these photographers became hopelessly infatuated with the movies. The legendary war photographer Robert Capa even sought an acting role in a piece of tosh named *Temptation*, only to abandon his budding movie career in order to chase Ingrid Bergman, with whom he was even more hopelessly infatuated.

*Chronicle of the Cinema* makes no pretence whatsoever at realism, being an unashamed, near-1,000-page wallow in what its publicity breathlessly exalts in as "all the glamour, scandal, romance and pa-

thos" of the movies. Its text is sometimes banal, semi-literate, factually inaccurate, and on at least one occasion even coy. It refers to *Basic Instinct*'s "appeal to baser instincts" without alluding to the glimpse of Sharon Stone's pudenda, which caused much of the fuss about this "very controversial" film.

But who cares? Film addicts, including myself, will wallow in the 3,000-plus posters, film stills and star portraits which fill this ostensibly lavish volume to overflowing. Picking up these two tomes will expose the purchaser to the peril of disc trouble, but it will be a rare and craven fan who seeks to avoid the risk.

## NEXT THURSDAY

John Bayley on Anita  
Brookner's latest novel;  
Derwent May on Kingsley  
Amis by Eric Jacobs

How women survive and conquer in the fevered world of Fleet Street

## All about Eve and friends

SPLASH  
By Val Corbett, Joyce  
Hopkirk and Eve Pollard  
Headline, £16.99

But while the storyline and setting is 1995, the sentiments of the heroines seem something of a period piece. Despite reaching the pinnacle of success, winning awards and public recognition in their fields, the three confide to each other an underlying lack of confidence and a fear of being "found out".

It is not an anxiety which afflicts the subsequent generation of media women and stems, I think, from the fact that the authors infiltrated the utterly masculine Fleet Street of the late 1960s and early 1970s largely via the acceptably female routes of fashion and the women's pages.

Feminine wiles were often a necessary part of early armoury as these pioneers

moved out of what were once girls' ghettos and took the boys' jobs from them, but it probably also accounts for the intense girliness of the book's tone.

There is lots about frocks and make-up and how much cleavage to display, though one wonders who could possibly be the source for Liz's beauty routine, which includes putting depilatory cream up her nose to remove nostril hair before meeting her lover.

The storyline at first is a bit slow. The first 20 pages are spent in the ladies' loo at the Grosvenor House Hotel. Then an irritating flashback device to recap on the early life of each heroine means it takes another three chapters for them to go down into the ballroom, eat their dinner and watch Katya win a Bafta.

But, a third of the way through, the book changes



Pollard: 11 years' editing

pace, the plot springs to life and the writing stops making your toes curl. From then on it becomes a pacy read with original twists and turns as the three women battle with their private and public demons.

The story ends with the three "girls" more or less on top. So what of the sequel? My money is on *What Katya Did Next*, in which the mythical friends get together and decide to write a novel.

TESSA HILTON

## Fetters of love

IMPOSSIBLE THINGS  
By Penny Perlick  
Bantam, £15.99

IF your name is Zanna Gringrich you are bound to be impossible and, with her marmalade hair, lavender eyes and scarlet slash of a mouth, Zanna is indeed pagan, amoral and bewitching. Married to kind, over-anxious Raymond, and mother to neglected Aurora but a genius at creating haas "to die for", Zanna has thrived during the Second World War on danger, casual sex and freedom "from the oppressiveness of belonging and being belonged to".

Now Zanna is making her way through the gloom of postwar Britain. Providing socialism is kept at bay and the rusty British economy winds up, she reckons she can make money. And if her creditors are insistent, why not, as she tells her Labour politician lover, hire a Rolls-Royce and throw dust in their eyes? Too bad then that the innocence of the 1950s turns into the hasty 1960s, when class died, the young assumed power and girls demanded eyeliner, tat and the Twist.

Decked out with zesty detail, spiky characters, a whiff of black farce and bold, intelligent writing that encompasses

both the brisk and the lush, *Impossible Things* whirls with panache through the ideological changes from 1947 to 1962 and makes the point that survivors can never run fast enough. Neither politics, passion, children, clothes and money, nor a meaty sacrifice of spirit to ideals are sufficient as safety nets. "In the end," concludes the older Zanna, "it's just a matter of lasting." This is to underestimate her greed, her staggering selfishness, her deracination and her life-saving robustness — qualities, the subtext suggests, required for the millennium.

If it is constructed on the quick, flashing episode rather than the smoothly building narrative, on shamelessness as opposed to morality, the novel turns, nevertheless, on a central irony. Zanna may be free from the cocktail of doubt and confusion peculiar to females, but even she cannot escape the fetters of love.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN



Mercer House: does murder lurk behind the facade?

MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL  
By John Berendt  
Vintage, £5.99

SAVANNAH, Georgia's steamy port, is caught in a time warp. General Sherman spared the town during his blitzkrieg through the South, while post civil war decline saved its squares and its magnificent mansions from redevelopment. Lady Astor, passing through in 1946, called it "a beautiful woman with a dirty face".

It still remains cut off from modern America, inward looking and concerned above all with its elegance, social status and intrigues. John Berendt's gripping book is half travelogue, half thriller. It plots both a sensational murder case and the postwar gentrification of a city where everyone seems to drink and gossip too much. Berendt, a Yankee magazine writer, went to Savan-

nah for a weekend and ended up staying on and off for eight years. He befriended Jim Williams, the antiques dealer who owned Mercer House, a leafy redbrick mansion, described as "not quite the 'biggest private house in Savannah'. Williams, a homosexual bachelor from humble origins, was the darling of Savannah society since he gave the best parties in a town where parties are taken seriously.

Berendt follows Williams, and a cast of rich southern characters, through four murder trials, gradually discovering the truth behind the facade of both the town and the defendant. Savannah, proud of its raffishness and nobility, has taken this book to its heart and tourists are eagerly directed towards Mercer House and sold in a conspiratorial drawl, "I reckon he did it". No one should travel to this gem of a city without this book.

PIPPA PASSES  
By Rumer Godden  
Pan, £5.99

BEAUTIFUL young ballerina Pippa Fane arrives in Venice to dance at a festival. In the city in which, she is led to believe, love is always in the air, she finds herself the object of amorous attention from swarthy gondolier Nicolo and from her dancing mistress, Angharad Fullerton. Thus Pippa arrives on the threshold of adulthood and finds romance to be a messy and exploitative business. This story of innocence despoiled from the author of such great novels as *The Black Narcissus* and *The Greening of January* seems dated and mawkish.

THE MARBLE KISS  
By Jay Rayner  
Pan, £5.99

IN 15th-century Tuscany a princess dies while giving birth to an illegitimate child. For 500 years the identity of her lover remains unknown, until journalist Alex Fuller arrives in Florence to cover an art-world squabble over her tomb. "Scavenging around the tattered hem of her history", he becomes much intrigued by her beautiful descendant, Isabella. Combining historical whodunnit with a study of obsession, this is ideal holiday reading.

THE KENNETH WILLIAMS LETTERS  
Edited by Russell Davies  
HarperCollins, £7.99

KENNETH Williams sparkles with wit, waspishness and frustrated intellect in these letters written between 1947, when he had just been demobbed from Combined Services Entertainment, and a few days before his untimely death in 1988. Bad at personal relationships, Williams used his talent for self-expression to maintain a dialogue with the people (mainly theatre friends) who mattered to him. Less factual and more fantastical than his diaries, most of these letters go all out to entertain. But, detached from the self-parodying tones of his famous speaking voice, they reveal an actor who was far too thoughtful for the kind of work to which he was restricted.

A.L. KENNEDY

Now that you're back



NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK  
By A.L. Kennedy  
Vintage, £5.99

KENNEDY combines her characteristically bizarre imagination and deadpan tone to bring a surreal atmosphere to this, her second collection of short stories. A series of shadowy first-person narratives, they range across subjects as diverse as a woman writing to tell her daughter that her father is a serial killer, to a guru pseudo-philosophising about penguins. But if at times a wry humour captures the texture of a tragicomic world, it often fails.

Graham Paterson, Nicki Household, Lucy Lethbridge, Sarah Hall, Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Giles Coren

THE ROAD TO MIRAN

By Christa Paula

Flamingo, £7.99

THE subtitle of this book "Travels in the Forbidden Zone of Xinjiang" promises all the mystery and romance of which travel writing used to be full. The author, a German, archaeology student, set off in 1989 to search for the forgotten Buddhist shrines of Miran. Her battles with the Chinese Republic, as she struggles to travel to the edge of the Desert of Lop (disguised as a nomad), makes salutary reading for the humble tourist, and a love affair in Szechuan lights the rather dull tone.

FOR anyone who thought that *Maphead* (about an alien whose shaved head can flash up anywhere on the globe) was seriously weird, Lesley Howarth's new novel, *Weather Eye* (Walker, £8.99), starts more reassuringly with Telly Craven living at home with her family. Only Telly is a Weather Eye, a member of an international youth club which shares computerised information about global climatic conditions, and the Craven home is a wind farm.

Her mother is away selling electricity when, before you can say Celsius, Telly has a near-death experience in which she is struck on the head by a loose turbine blade, leaving her with strange powers in interpreting the effects of the weather: floods, gales,

earthquakes and plagues of frogs unleash themselves as the millennium approaches. A distinctive adventure story, it is told with breezy humour. "There was no doubt about it. Whoever ran the world's weather had their knickers in a twist."

Becoming Julia (Viking, £10) confirms Chris Westwood's reputation as a superb thriller writer who puns teenage concerns centre stage. After parental opposition, Maggie leaves home to share a flat with two other girls — a familiar situation. Just parted from her two-timing boyfriend — another familiar situation — she is settling into her new

## Home on the wind farm

TEENAGE FICTION

life when Julia, the girl whose room she has taken, is found dead in the city river. Not a familiar situation at all, especially as Maggie resembles Julia to an uncanny extent.

To try to discover what happened, Maggie becomes over-involved in the dead girl's past, despite menacing phone calls.

Westwood is good at tense dialogue in which sentences end in "as if" or "if only". And the shopping scenes in which the girls enjoy buying a T-shirt printed with "I used to be

conceded but now I'm perfect" have atmosphere. Suspense is not lacking, but Maggie's insouciant attitude eventually strains credulity. No wonder her parents kept saying, "You can't be too careful".

Asked to nominate the perfect novel about a teenager I would unhesitatingly choose J.D. Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*. The trouble is that now readers expect a series, or at least a string of similar novels, and unfortunately there is only one *Catcher in the Rye*. With *The Firm*, Paul Zindel became one of the leading exponents of the recognised problem novel for 12 to 16-year-olds. In his fifth book,

Loch (Bodley Head, £8.99), Zindel goes less for rites of passage than a gripping environmental adventure about a prehistoric sea monster, or a highly evolved plesiosaur — several of them in fact.

Fifteen-year-old Loch — nicknamed after the Loch Ness monster — is on a remote lake in Vermont with his marine biologist father when one of these massive creatures erupts from the deep, nearly devouring Loch's girlfriend, and causing one of the crew to comment, "Cap'n, this ain't no sturgeon". The story is about whether the prehistoric creatures are to be destroyed, stuffed or preserved in their natural habitat. No big contest, really.

MAURFEN OWEN

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# The crucks of the matter

Beautiful and practical, exposed A-frames are making a welcome return

It was "divine accident", to use Susan Winkler von Stiernhelm's phrase, that led to the addition of an unusual feature to the interior of her 16th-century house. The extension to the property, in a village near Alton, Hampshire, sports a nearly new 21ft cruck frame: nearly new because it is made from oak at least 160 years old. And the structure is a divine accident because it only happened when the Winklers had a change of mind halfway through building a timber-framed extension.

She and her husband were adding a 21ft one-storey play, games and party room and realised that it would be far more useful if it were about 5ft longer. The change of mind presented no planning problems but, as the structure had an exposed oak frame rather like a barn, architect Richard Ashby realised the additional length was going to need extra support.

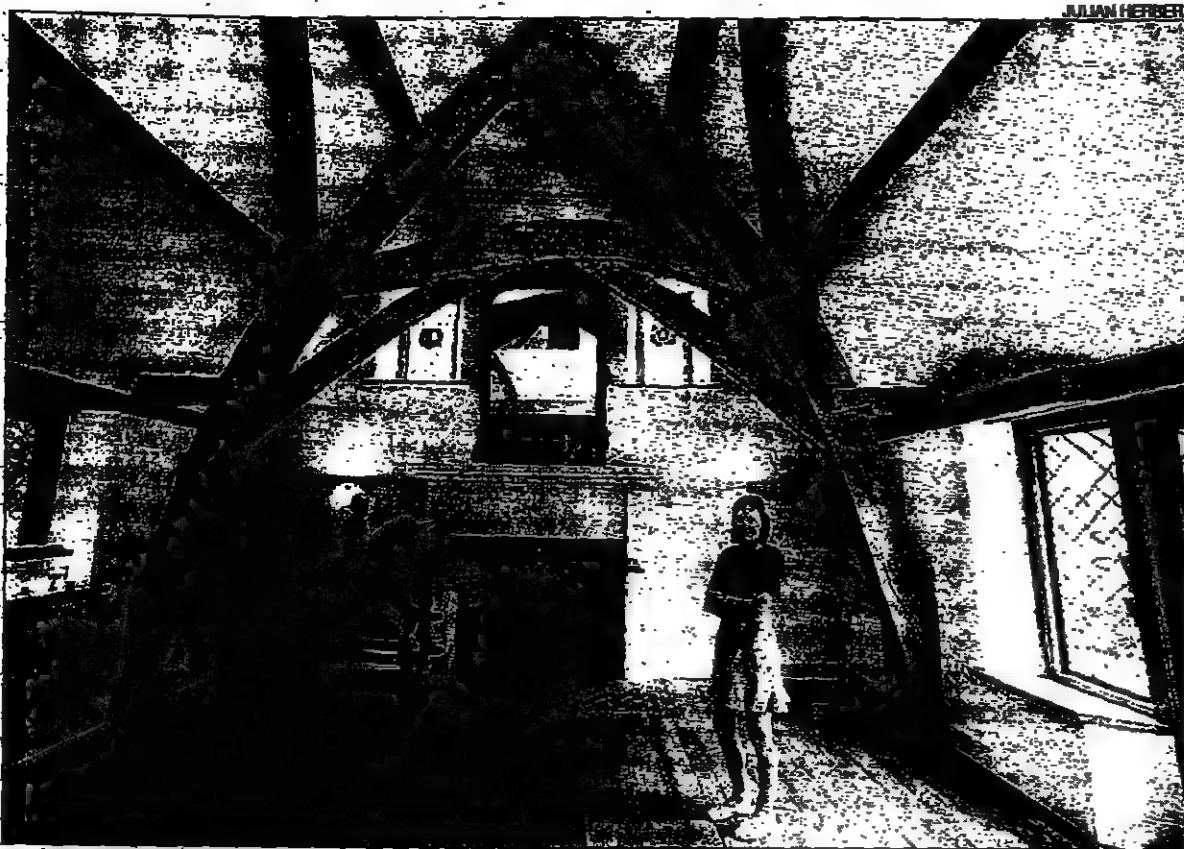
"The obvious solution was a cruck—an A-frame of the earliest known type—as it takes the load of the roof directly to the ground and not on to the walls," Mr Ashby says.

As well as enabling the Winklers to add their extra 5ft, the cruck has made an ideal feature in which to frame the fireplace, as well as being of considerable beauty in its own right.

"We wanted to add an extension that reflected the timber framing of our lovely old house," Mrs Winkler says. "And as the house was almost certainly originally a one-storey open hall, we thought it would be nice if the extension could reflect that. Our other requirement was that the frame should be visible and structural, not just decorative. The cruck fits this."

Crucks are formed by huge pairs of curved timbers rising from the ground to the apex of the roof of a building. They support both the roof and the walls, and are believed to be the original method used to erect timber-framed houses of the type seen all over the Midlands, the West and much of the north of England.

"Cruck frames appeal to people because they are beautiful as well as structural. When cruck houses were originally built, the blades were meant to be seen, curving up to the roof," says



Susan Winkler von Stiernhelm in the cruck-built playroom extension of her house near Alton, Hampshire

Charles Brentnall of Carpenter Oak and Woodland, a company that specialises in building and repairing timber-framed buildings.

"Unfortunately, most crucks in old houses have become concealed over the years. You can occasionally see a complete pair from the outside, but inside it is often just decorative work."

At his company's yard, in the village of Colerne near Bath, Mr Brentnall has several dozen newly sawn cruck blades of different sizes, mainly in oak and black poplar. He also has several curved tree trunks that will eventually end up in cruck frames.

"We must be one of the few companies to keep sawn cruck blades, but we do find there is a demand for them for restoration purposes and for the occasional new-build project," he says. The price of a 20ft-span cruck varies between £4,800 and £5,200, before installation.

In Romsey, Hampshire, Carpenter Oak and Woodland has recently finished restoring a small cruck-framed house on the edge of the town that dates from the late 14th century. The house, which was under threat of demolition, was bought three years ago

by the Romsey and District Historic Building Trust. It was only after the trust had made a close inspection that it realised it was a cruck building.

Although none of the three crucks—one oak and two black poplar—are visible from the outside, all can be seen clearly inside the fully restored building. One end has been opened up as a one-storey hall, much as it would have looked when built 600 years ago. The house has just gone on the market at a guide price of £130,000.

Dr Nat Alcock, of Warwick University, a chemist by training, has made a hobby of studying timber-framed buildings, and crucks in particular. In 1981, he published a study of all the known crucks in Britain and he is just finishing an update in which he uses tree ring dating (dendrochronology) to date historic cruck frames.

However, Dr Alcock sees no likelihood of a wholesale return to this form of building. "The reasons for this are the same as those that led to their disappearance in the 17th century—crucks are better adapted to single-storey than two-storey building and it

is difficult to buy the appropriate timber," he says. "But crucks had a great deal going for them. As a means of taking the roof load to the ground, they are an excellent design, as you can see in many village halls and similar structures, where the modern crucks are made of multiple pieces of timber glued together."

"In the north of Britain, cruck-framed houses were still being built as late as 1700 and the earliest date from the 1270s. If you consider that Portland cement only came into widespread use after the First World War and that brick went out of use for nearly 1,000 years after the Romans left, that means crucks have had a very good run."

CLIVE FEWINS

For more information about ancient cruck-framed buildings and their distribution in Britain, Dr Alcock's 1981 report is available as a paperback book, price £6.95, from Oxford Books, Park End Place, Oxford OX1 0HN (01865 241249). Please send an additional £2 p.p. There is no publication date as yet for his follow-up study.

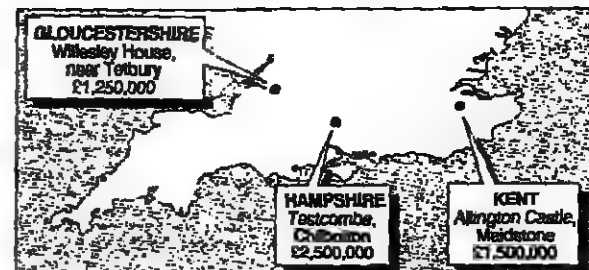
Carpenter Oak and Woodland, Hall Farm, Thickwood Lane, Colerne, Wiltshire SN14 8BE (01225 763089).



Gloucestershire: Willesley House, near Tetbury. Grade II listed 16th-century Cotswold stone country house in nearly 40 acres. Six bedrooms, five bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen, laundry room. Two-bedroom cottage with outbuildings, offices, garaging and tennis court. About £1,250,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 0171-629 8171).



over £1 million



Hampshire: Testcombe, Chilbolton. Grade II listed country house in the beautiful Test valley, set in 14 acres. Includes more than 700 yards of single-bank fishing on the main stream of the river Test and 1,000 yards on both banks of the carriers. Six bedrooms, five bathrooms, three large reception rooms, kitchen and domestic office. A separate staff cottage has its own drive. About £2,500,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, as above).



Kent: Allington Castle, Maidstone. Moated castle on the banks of the river Medway. In about 40 acres with mooring rights. Great hall, galleries, 25 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms and a chapel. 11th and two pairs of semi-detached cottages. About £1,500,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, as above).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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A well planned conversion of a Grade II listed Cotswold barn situated in a rural position. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, cloakroom, 4 reception, kitchen/breakfast room with Aga, utility room, easily managed garden & stabling.

Price Guide:  
£395,000  
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01285 642244



## OXFORDSHIRE

Oxfordbrook

A delightful 16th-century stone house in an edge of village location. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, small garden, parking, outbuilding.

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GOLF BREAKS: Whatever your level of play or favourite type of course, here are some worldwide venues...

## Swinging holidays designed to a tee

## CANADA

**THE** attractions of eastern Canada during the summer, and particularly in the autumn, try out for recognition. The wooded lakeland scenery, the quality of the Canadian Pacific hotels and the astonishingly cheap green fees would appeal to all who want a civilised golfing holiday.

For those who want a testing championship course I would recommend the Deerhurst Highlands club at Muskoka in Ontario (though as an 18-handicapper I would seek something easier).

The course is 7,000 yards, from the back tees, of rugged terrain, with dense woods, winding creeks and striking outcrops of granite bedrock. Buggies are mandatory: the distances between greens and tees preclude any possibility of walking, and even with carts it takes a minimum of four and a half to five hours to get round.

Le Château Montebello course, on the north shore of the Ottawa river between Montreal and Ottawa, is a graceful contrast to the modern type of course. It was bulldozed out of a paddyfield, with acres of sand and imported water added.

Montebello goes where nature intended, following the curves of the valleys and trout streams, and winding round forest trails. Biffling will get you nowhere: you must place the ball accurately. The ninth hole even incorporates a huge granite outcrop from which you either soar on to the green or perish wretchedly on the foothills.

The director of golf here is Sarah Cruise, the only woman

golf director in North America, and under whom the course is becoming one of Canada's best. It is refreshing to see a notice by the first tee reading: "Remember, a game of golf should be played in less than four hours."

The green fees for this least pretentious, but most pleasurable, course are £22.50 on weekdays and £26 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday — both fees including the cart. The course is a short walk from the famous Log Chateau Hotel.

Holiday golf requires courses that everyone can play for fun. The Algonquin course at St Andrews-by-the-sea, New Brunswick, must be one of the prototypes. It is subtle enough to test a professional but fair enough for the average golfer to play to their handicaps.

In spite of its location, it is not a links and is not modelled on the Old Course at St Andrews. It is, however, at least as capricious as the latter, with fairways that nearly always offer an uneven stance.

Although carts are available, many golfers prefer to walk the course and enjoy the splendid scenery overlooking Passamaquoddy Bay. The climate is mild and golf usually continues into November.

The course is 6,500 yards, but there is also a short nine-hole course of fiendish character, where the greens seem little bigger than hub-caps.

The Algonquin is a day's train ride from Toronto, which the holiday golfer might profitably break at Moncton, where there are half a dozen courses within ten minutes of the town centre.

Some idea of the cheapness of golf in Canada can be ascertained from the fact the excellent Hotel Beauséjour in



Warm climate, beautiful scenery, courses to suit all levels... It is not surprising that Mark Twain wrote from Bermuda: "You go to heaven if you want. I'll stay right here"

Moncton offers accommodation for two nights, with breakfast plus two rounds of golf, for £80 a head.

JOHN GRANT

● The author was a guest at a selection of Canadian Pacific Ho-

els and Resorts (0171-389 1126), which offers golf packages through All Canada Travel (0150-253 5825). He travelled by Canadian Airlines (0181-577 7722), which flies daily from Heathrow to Toronto, from £369 to £459 return (July 1 to Sept 30). In Canada, he travelled by Canada Rail.

**FOR** the avid golfer, Bermuda provides some magnificent courses of varying difficulty, ranging from the tricky to the "mountain goat". It also offers amazingly beautiful scenery and a sunny climate in which to play.

The Marriott Hotel at Castle Harbour has been designed with more than the holiday golfer in mind. Here, deep valleys split the course into difficult holes which punish any wayward shot.

Idyllic surroundings encourage the golfer to be distracted, but concentration is a must in Bermuda if that handicap is to come down.

For the golf purist, the island's nine courses is the exclusive Mid Ocean Club. I arrived there on one of the two days each week when a member's guest is allowed to play. The superb fairways and greens are a bonus. The views are breathtaking and the sand in the bunkers appears to have been scooped from the ocean, with pink coral sparkling in the hot sun.

Green fees here are \$100 (about £65), with a caddie costing a further \$25. Golf carts are available but insisting on one is considered bad form. Walking, says the club professional, is better for your fitness.

This isn't just a beautiful place to play. Although a shortish course at 6,547 yards,

it is demanding: the course record stands at 64. Par is 71. But when the round has finished, what better than an iced tea or gin and tonic at the 19th hole? And who could resist plunging into the 20th — the Atlantic ocean?

When the other seven courses on the island have been mastered there is more to do in this magical island of tranquility, only seven hours flying time from London. Bermuda is a self-governing British colony, where the police wear British-style uniforms, marching bands of the Bermuda Regiment perform Beating Retreat in the Royal Navy Dockyard during the summer and, in Hamilton, the main town, there are all the restaurants and nightlife you could wish for.

And when you are sitting around topping up the tan on the gorgeous beaches, drinking the local tipple, "rum swizzle", and bringing down your handicap on the golf course, consider what Mark Twain wrote from Bermuda: "You go to heaven if you want. I'll stay right here."

JAMES MORGAN

● The author travelled as a guest of British Airways and the Marriott Hotel, Castle Harbour, Bermuda. British Airways (0181-397 4000) has direct flights to Bermuda from London Gatwick from £644 return. British Airways Holidays (01293 518022) offers specialised golfing holidays to Bermuda from £959.

● Bermuda Tourism, 1 Battersea Church Road, London SW11 3LY (0171-754 8813).

**IF** one swallow doesn't make a summer, one course doesn't equate to a golf resort. Two will do the trick though, and on Madeira the impressive new Golf Palheiro, opened less than two years ago, will soon rank among the finest in Europe.

The island, known as "The Garden of the Atlantic", has been a holiday destination for the British since the days of sail. Even so, it took 200 years for a golf ball to land there.

Formerly volcanic, Madeira is mountainous in places and generally hilly. From the highest point at 2,000ft, there are views over a sea of waving tree tops and cascading gardens to a breathtaking coastline.

Both courses are close to Funchal (population 100,000), the island's port-capital. The Santa da Serra Club is about 15 miles from the town, but many hotels provide a shuttle coach service. It is a hilly course and the final four holes are an unrelenting climb into the prevailing breeze.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr and opened in 1991, it has twice staged the Madeira Open, the pipe-opener to the European Tour, and a winning score of 281, only seven under par, is a mark of its challenge. The nature of the terrain brings a great variety of shots, up and down, but accurate driving to an agreeable length is a prerequisite, plus a modicum of imagination.

tion, with the approach shots. At about 6,045 yards, Santa da Serra is not a long course: it simply plays that way. But it's huge fun if the breeze isn't too frisky and the views reward the effort.

One could play the Palheiro Golf Club twice a day for a week without risking boredom. Designed by Cabell Robinson and opened in 1993, it was carved out of pine forest and has retained hundreds of specimen trees and shrubbery. It's rather like playing through a garden.

Palheiro can be played by walkers, although golf carts are available. Artful design and subtle use of topography has resulted in magnificent fairways, frequently running downhill, or skirting hills via wooded valleys, to perfectly placed and generally receptive greens.

It's a delight matched by impeccable course condition. Every hole, particularly five glorious par-threes, is worth a picture. The course is 6,620 yards, par 71, from the back, but a choice of tees makes it welcoming to players of any standard. All should consider themselves fortunate.

BARRY WARD

● The author writes about travel for Golf Monthly magazine. In Madeira he was a guest of GB Airways and the Madeira Palacio Hotel. The principal tour operator for Madeira is Cadogan Travel (01703 332661), whose brochure lists a wide range of hotels, including several which offer reduced green fees to guests. Prices from £435 for seven nights.

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**SWEDISH** professional golfers have made their mark on the world's greens recently and the country now has about 350 golf courses, 100 of which have been built within the past year. But how many of us would consider a golfing holiday there?

A large number, is the hope of Åke Larsson, the director of a new company called Stay and Play, which arranges tailor-made golfing holidays throughout Sweden from April to September. Accommodation, on a bed and breakfast basis, is at 4-star hotels, with an abundance of Scandinavian atmosphere.

My trip began in the pretty town of Mariestad, about 90 minutes' drive from Stockholm airport. The Gripsholm Vårdshus hotel in Mariestad is the oldest in Sweden. The rooms are individually decorated in Gustavian style, and beautifully presented food is served in a dining room which has views of the castle and bay.

The Gripsholm golf course, opened in 1993 on land that once belonged to the King of Sweden, has been designed around outcrops of prehistoric mounds, which means a lot of walking between some of the holes. I would like to play the course again, in about five years when it has had a chance to mature. But, with the tight fairways and plentiful water, I did not find it easy.

From Mariestad our party travelled to Söderköping (about two hours away) on the Göta canal, linking Stockholm and Gothenburg. Here we stayed at the Söderköpings Brunn, one of the oldest spa hotels in Sweden.

Söderköpings golf course, which has 14 dog-legs, is a 537-yard woodland course which opened in 1987. From the 6th tee, you have a fine view of the Göta canal, lined with summerhouses.

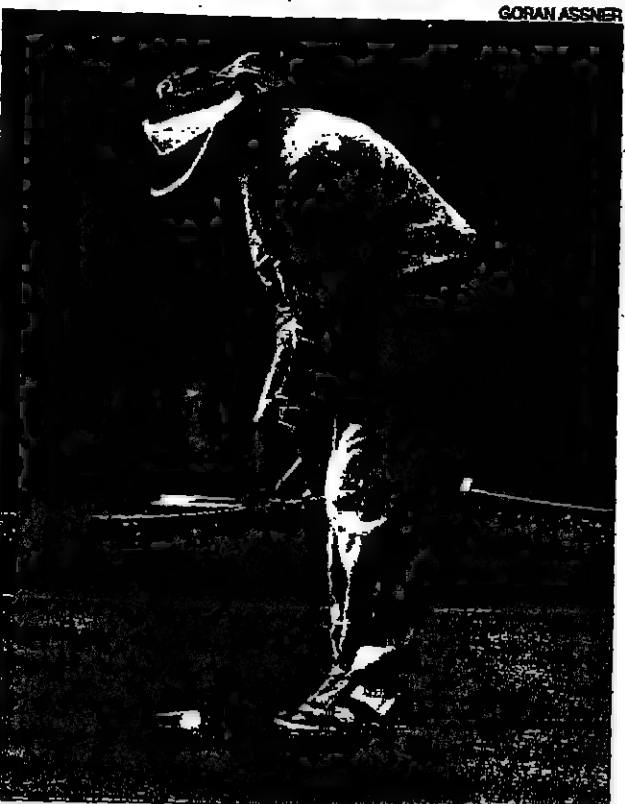
Our third round was at Vörkings Golf club (half an hour from Söderköping), established in 1928. This is a peaceful 6,495-yard course, similar to Söderköping but more mature, with oaks and junipers creating a challenge, especially around the greens. There is less water here than at Gripsholm and Söderköping, but out of the three courses this is the most enjoyable to play on.

Even though last summer was Sweden's hottest for 30 years, the fairways could not have been in better condition. All three courses have excellent water-sprinkler systems

to prevent them drying out. The country is clean and fresh, and not as expensive as it used to be, and the Swedes are extremely hospitable. The places we visited are suitable for couples or families, golfers and non-golfers. If you want nightlife as well, the luxurious Fjellbrohus Hotel and Golf Club in the Stockholm archipelago, or Gullbringa Golf and Country Club in Gothenburg, are ideal.

ALISON TOWNSEND

The author flew courtesy of Transwede Airways. The above trip



Sweden now has 350 courses, 100 built in the past year

would cost about £550 for four days, including return flights, B&B accommodation and green fees. For information contact Stay and Play (Sweden), Finlandia Travel, 227 Regent Street, London, W1R 7DB (0171-409 7394).

IT WAS noon in May and the temperature on the clubhouse terrace was nudging 80°F. Below, striped emerald fairways unravelled in all directions, punctuated by winding bunkers and flawless green mounds by palm trees waving in a gentle sea breeze. The scene might have been a Florida country club, but this was Tunisia; one of several new golf courses that are transforming the country's year-round tourist industry. Most courses are inland, invariably on elevated terrain, giving views of the sea and the

distant Atlas mountains. The clubs I played at included the Golf Club Yasmine and the Golf Club Citrus, both about 40 minutes' drive from Tunis airport and close to Hammamet, an old town with a five-mile beach and a promenade lined with hotels.

The town is the magnet for après golf. Dining out is an inexpensive experience, as are most aspects of golfing holidays here. The city's myriad restaurants offer tantalising fare, with a French or Moorish flavour, and good local wines. The golf is just as appetising.

GORAN ASSNER

WITH 72 courses to choose from and a wonderful climate, Hawaii has become one of America's favourite places to play golf. Now this string of volcanic islands in the Pacific is beginning to attract visitors from Britain, lured by the combination of bright sun, blue sky, sparkling sea and some of the best resort hotels in the world.

The Iliani Resort and Spa is on the west coast of Oahu, away from the garish Waikiki Beach. Opened last year, the Ted Robinson-designed Ko Olina golf course has lots of water coming into play on eight of the holes.

Home to the Hawaiian Ladies Open, the course is relatively friendly to the average club player, but a severe test from the championship tees.

A few miles up the coast, towards Honolulu, is the Ewa Beach International Golf Club, where public tee times are available for two and a half days a week. This is another attractive course, with plenty of water and beautifully landscaped; its only disadvantage is that it is under the Honolulu flight path.

Lanai Island was until recently a pineapple plantation. The new owner, David Murdock, a Californian, has invested \$400 million in two luxury hotels, the Manele Bay Hotel and the Lodge at Koele, and two of the world's most dramatic golf courses — the Challenge at Manele, designed by Jack Nicklaus, and the Experience of Koele, designed by Greg Norman.

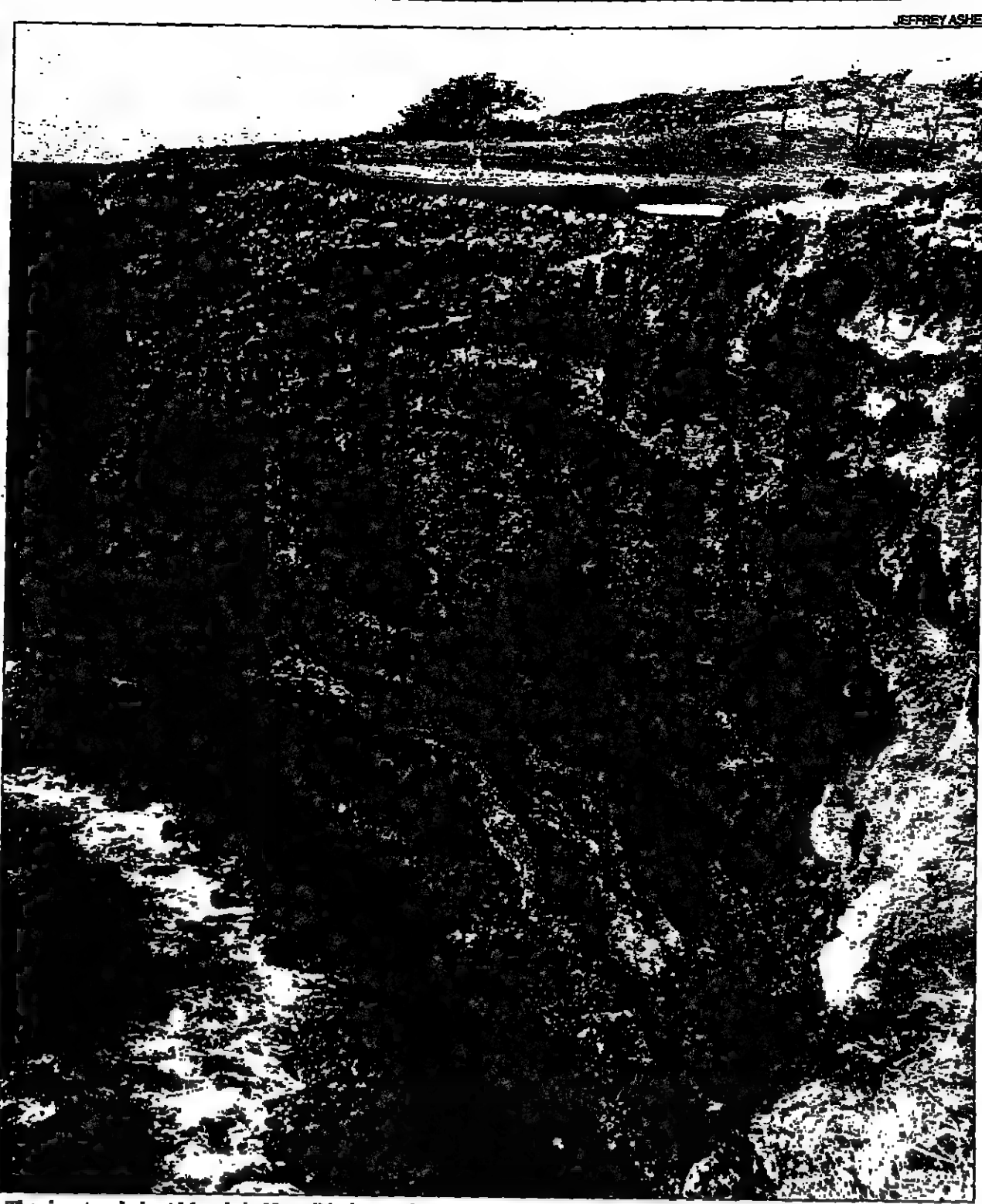
The Nicklaus course was created by laying thousands of tons of top soil on the raw lava flow, which forms the scenic background. Instead of rough, you have jagged lava. Take plenty of balls: this is a ruthless test of golf. The signature hole is the par three 12th across 150 yards of raging ocean to a narrow cliff-edge green.

Green Norman's course is more forgiving: the first eight holes go up to 1,800ft into a wooded hillside. The 8th hole bears the designer's signature: you drive from an elevated tee to a fairway 250ft below, which leads to a green at the head of a narrow valley. The back nine are less dramatic but include the obligatory water hazards: the 17th, a short par 4, calls for an accurate pitch on to a green surrounded by water.

On the Big Island another resort, Mauna Lani, is built around two more fine courses, with two hotels and property for sale and for rent. This is where the Senior Skins tournament is held. The South Course is also sculpted in volcanic lava — and very demanding. The 15th coastal hole juts out over sea and rocks, and from the back tees, demands a 180-yard carry.

STUART MACLURE

The author was a guest of Japan Airlines (0171-408 1000) — London-Tokyo-Honolulu return from £1,989 — and the following hotels: whose double occupancy rates per night are: Iliani Resort and Spa (01 808 69 0079) from £275 (£170); Manele Bay (01 61 839 8844) from £225; Mauna Lani hotel (0800 81123) from £275 in hotel, \$2,500 in bungalow.



The signature hole at Manele in Hawaii is the par three 12th across 150 yards of raging ocean to a narrow, cliff-edge green

AMERICA

PERHAPS the most frustrating aspect of attending a three-day golf school at one of America's best known "clinics" was the deterioration of my already mediocre game. Golf cannot be learnt and mastered in three days, nor can three days turn an average golfer into a good one, but intense instruction can make a big difference.

Whatever your level, you could hardly spend a more productive weekend than by attending one of the 200 annual clinics of the Golf Digest Golf School, claimed to be America's oldest and largest golfing school.

The school has retained its position at the top end of the market — with prices to match — at variable locations in Virginia, Georgia and Florida, offering a variety of programmes, from half-day commuter schools to five-day VIP programmes costing more than \$5,000 (about £3,200).

Florida, as one might expect, has been one of the favourite locations for the British and European golf enthusiasts. At Sea Island,

Georgia, the school operates its largest and technically best equipped facility. But the discerning golfer and traveller is likely to opt for Williamsburg in Virginia, about three hours south of Washington.

Williamsburg is one America's oldest towns, with a well-preserved town centre from colonial times. Its streets, houses and inns serve as the world's largest outdoor history museum. Here, too, are two of the best golf courses on the east coast: a perfect, if not daunting, place to improve one's swing or short-game technique.

I arrived in Williamsburg as a rather low-to-average level golfer, and while I would dare not put myself into another category for some time, there is at least some hope now.

The instruction at the school alternates between full swing and the short game, mornings and afternoon respectively. The video camera, the most powerful teaching tool in golf, helps to analyse the swing movement, based on an analysis of three factors: the swing plane (the most common fault); the correct position of the club face at impact; and the relative position of the club

shaft, arms and wrists from the backswing through to the impact. One of the rules in golf is that what feels good looks bad, and vice versa. The camera not only exposes one's incompetence, but does so from all angles.

The most counter-intuitive result at the end of my three days was the deterioration of my golf swing. But then, it takes time and patience to get used to a new grip, a new address position. After a few days' practice, my swing gradually improved, but the real learning effect continues for a long time, often months.

Perhaps the best testimony to the school's success is that 30 per cent of the students who, after having forked out

thousands of dollars to attend one of the programmes, later return for another session.

WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

The author was a guest of Golf Digest Schools, 5530 Park Avenue, Box 395, Trumbull, CT 06611-0395, USA (01 203 373-1130). The cost for a three-day residential course, including four nights and full board in the five-star Williamsburg Inn, is approximately £1,700. Nearest international airport, Washington Dulles International.

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**DAY 8** Cruise from Koblenz to Koenigswinter and take the cog-wheel railway up the Drachenfels. **DAY 9** Visit the cathedral city of Cologne. Cruise to Arnhem. **DAY 10** Transfer to Amsterdam for our return flight to London.

\* The itinerary for our 28 August departure is in reverse order.

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INDIA: Wander through Calcutta's teeming streets, discover long-hidden erotic carvings in Khajuraho ...

## Splendour in the heat and dust

Four pelicans stood gnom and immobile in the pond, while sleeping marble lions guarded the Palladian palace, with its portico of white fluted columns. Entering from a stucco colonnade, I walked through a billiard room decorated in Wedgwood blue and white, and into an arched courtyard lined with stately. Exotic birds twined in their cages.

A bright sun illuminated the hundred varieties of marble used to build the house. Upstairs, canvases by Rubens, Murillo and lesser masters loomed from the walls. From the windows I gazed out on to the park; the pelicans hadn't budged, the lions slumbered on, and a gardener was trimming the lawn with a scythe.

This palace is not in Verona or Rome, but in the heart of Calcutta. I omitted to mention that the stucco was peeling, the dust-draped stately is mostly 19th-century and the Old Masters are said to be copies because the palace's owners sold off the priceless originals long ago. There is decay in the air, with perpetual humidity waging war against what signs call 'objects d'art'.

Calcutta must now have the worst image of any city, but 150 years ago it was as greatly admired for its magnificent architecture — of which the Marble Palace is a rare survivor — as it was loathed for its appalling climate. It was not only the British who made money here.

The builder of the Marble Palace in 1835 was the *nouveau riche* Rajendra Mallick, whose descendants still live within the grounds. So the splendour of Calcutta is largely colonial. The redbrick Writers' Buildings in Dalhousie Square, where originally East India Company clerks laboured and where today armies of government functionaries idle, would not be out of place in Manchester or Bradford. St Paul's Cathedral and St John's Church of 1787 are both crisply neoclassical.

But although life could be luxurious here for the British traders, it could also be short. Memorial plaques on the walls tell of lives swiftly terminated by sickness at sea, disease, war and siege. Little Hilda died at Lucknow, aged seven months, "from sheer want of proper nutriment".

Although these churches are well maintained, most of Calcutta's colonial heritage is neglected. Walk down Middleton Street and Shakespeare Sarani and you'll see luxuriant vegetation sprouting from Italianate mansions.

Most Calcuttians, of course, have something more pressing on their minds than conservation. The poverty of the city is no myth. It is palpable and unmissable. Each



Calcutta's Victoria Memorial, built by Lord Curzon, contains portraits of India's former rulers.

week thousands of new arrivals surge into the hopelessly overcrowded city. Added to the predicament of finding food and shelter is the spectacular awfulness of the climate: almost beyond endurance from March to June, until the thundering monsoons bring not only relief but flooding and mudslides. By October, the city is bearable again and its cultural life resumes. Winter is the time to sample Indian classical music and

dance, and the plethora of theatre companies. Bengali culture is one of the most refined in India, and the Calcuttians, despite the near paralysis of their mismanaged city, take enormous pride in it.

The pride is infectious. It takes a few days to get used to the sights to which the locals are inured: the young men not only hanging on to the sides of antiquated buses thundering along, but hanging on to the clothes of other young men hang-

ing on for dear life; the double-decker bus beyond repair yet still in service, attached to a tow-truck that drags it down Chowringhee at a rakish angle; the astrologers squatting on the pavement decoding the palms of anxious office workers; the limblegged beggars on the streets; the frequent power cuts; the blood-soaked compound of Kalighat temple, where goats' throats are slit to appease the most ferocious Hindu gods; and the crowds

at the vast, pink Nakhoda mosque for Friday prayers.

Once acclimatised, you can begin to enjoy the city as its inhabitants do: strolling through the large central park called the Maidan or gawping at the Victoria Memorial. Lord Curzon's sprawling version of the Taj Mahal, filled with portraits of India's former rulers and commemorative canvases.

Or you could walk around the vast Indian Museum with its superlative collection of Buddhist art; attend races at the Maidan racetrack; enjoy a leisurely game of golf at one of the city's public country clubs; or join in the boisterousness that marks the Durga religious festival in September, when the whole city closes down for three weeks of hedonism. For Calcutta, despite its problems, remains a positive city.

Calcutta attracts sobriquets. In the 19th century it was called the City of Palaces; Kipling saw it as the City of Dreadful Night; more recent writers find it a City of Joy. All are true. The link word is city. Calcutta is relentlessly urban, so if you adore Manhattan or Istanbul, you'll soon feel at home.

STEPHEN BROOK

### Fact file

- Air India has daily flights to Bombay and Delhi, from £778 return. Discounted fares as low as £475 are available from Travelenders (0171-538 3939).
- Accommodation: all rates quoted are per night and include local taxes. A single room at the Oberoi Grand costs £127-£135; a double £143-£150. Reservations: 0800 181123.
- At the Taj Bengal a single room costs about £140, a double £155. Reservations: 0800 282699.
- The Fairview Hotel is at Ba Sudder Street, 700016 (0091 33 242 8394; fax 242 5136). A single room costs £28, a double £40. Full board.
- The Old Kenilworth is at 7 Little Russell Street, 730071 (0091 33 242 8394; fax 242 5136). Rates from £16-£24.
- The Quality Inn, 12 J. D. Nehru Road, 700013 (0091 33 242 8222; fax 242 6450) charges £25 for a single, £34 for a double.
- The Tollymore Club is at 120 Deshaprasad Sasmal Road, 700033, rooms from £12-£25.
- For permission to visit the Marble Palace and for city tours, contact the West Bengal Tourist Bureau, 3/2 BBID Bagh, 700001 (0091 33 248 8271).
- The Indian Tourist Board: 0171-437 3677.

## Secrets of the love temples

The temples of Khajuraho, the finest in northern India, are in a remote, pristine corner of the country where tigers, bears and panthers occupy virgin jungle, and unpolluted rivers are dangerous with crocodiles. Hardly anybody goes there: 30,000 tourists last year, compared with a million facing pandemonium at the Taj Mahal in polluted, expensive Agra.

Khajuraho, a village of 5,000, which only recently was given proper water, electricity and telephone connections, hosts the temples of love, or, as some would have it, temples of eroticism. The 1,000-year-old sandstone carvings, worthy of scenes from the *Kama Sutra*, are a celebration of India's uninhibited traditions, which were stifled by Muslim invaders and the Victorian British. Khajuraho lets it all hang out, group sex, homosexuality, bestiality and all.

Islamic invaders hacked at Khajuraho's religious images on their march through the region, but felt no inclination to lop off the erotic statues, leaving them to collect the grime of centuries until they were rediscovered 130 years ago. They were introduced to the world by General Alexander Cunningham in his Survey of India reports.

But Khajuraho remained

inaccessible, far from roads and railways, until 25 years ago when the first landing strip was opened. Even so, Khajuraho, an hour's flight from Delhi, is still not on most tour operators' itineraries. The temples were built by the Chandela Rajputs, who traced their descent from the Moon god. Twenty of the original 85 monuments are still standing, many in magnificent condition, although they are now threatened by aircraft vibration. Cracks have appeared in at least one temple.

For most people, flying is the only viable way of getting to Khajuraho, which is more than four hours' drive from the nearest mainline railway station at Jhansi. The village is practically traffic-free and there is no industrial pollution to threaten the monuments. The countryside, edged by mountains from the Vindhya range, is empty and unspoilt.



Villagers are being forcibly moved out of Panna National Park nearby — after receiving compensation of £1,000 per family — in order to preserve its 300 square miles for animals and tourists in jeeps. Officially there are 32 tigers

at Panna, which has just been included in the government's Project Tiger conservation scheme. Local guides say the real number is perhaps half that, because of poachers and poisoning by cattle herders.

Khajuraho's erotic sculptures account for only 5 per cent of all the carvings, but they are the main reason visitors go there. The depictions of the sexual act were believed to ward off evil, and such scenes adorn the shrines of religious sects throughout India. They may have been carved as a backlash against Buddhism, which banished sensual pleasures. Another theory is that the temples were centres of Tantricism, which regards sex as necessary to spiritual development.

Two new, small, top-class hotels have just opened in Khajuraho, giving the village 400 beds in four and five-star categories — far more than are needed for the trickle of tourists. But with more flights and bigger planes due to be put into service, there is every chance that Khajuraho will become a popular destination.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS



Beautifully preserved sculptures on the facade of the Parsvanath temple, Khajuraho

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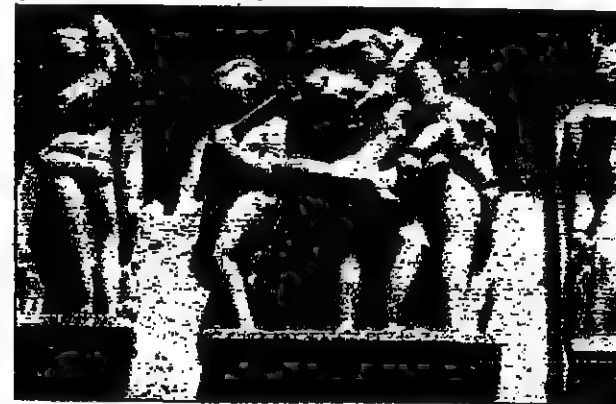
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### Travel facts for northern India

- The author was a guest of ModiLift airline and the Orient Express Travel Agency (0091 11 332 2142) and the Chandela Hotel, a member of the Taj chain.
- Accommodation: budget hotels from 600 rupees (£12); four and five-star hotels in peak season for about 1,200 rupees (£24) for a single, 1,500-2,000 rupees (£30-£40) for a double. Substantial summer discounts.
- Flights: daily to Khajuraho from Delhi on Indian Airlines; three times a week from Delhi on ModiLift. From the UK: BA flies daily direct to Delhi (£899 return) but there are cheaper options with stopovers, including Lufthansa (£510 return). For the low-cost flights, try Uzbek Airlines (0171-935 4775) and Tajik Airlines (0181-993 8885).



Erotic figures on the Lakshmana temple, Khajuraho

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...join a trekking party high into the Sikkim mountains, or make a pilgrimage to Delhi in search of the Raj

## Walking high in the clouds

The chance to join a trekking party to Sikkim, the tiny, rugged 22nd state of India, sandwiched between Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal, had come at short notice. As it was impossible to trek in the summer because of monsoons and impassable in winter because of snow, there were, I was told, three walking weeks in October. With just days to prepare and get into shape, I was starting to panic.

A day queueing DSS-style at the Indian High Commission in London had still left me short of the right papers (a permit to visit Sikkim is necessary because of its proximity to the Chinese border). So, in Delhi I queued again at the Ministry of External Affairs while the rest of my party flew on.

I finally made it. After a two-hour flight across northwest India, unaccompanied, unpractised and unfit, I was bouncing across the foothills of West Bengal in the back of an elderly Mahindra car to join my companions in the base camp at Yoksom in the Sikkim foothills.

There my worst fears were confirmed: the other nine members of the team were girded in Gore-tex and Rollei trekking gear, bristling with headlamps and altimeters; all experienced trekkers.

I consoled myself with the memory that I had once walked home from the office during a Tube strike.

For its small size (70 miles by 40 miles), Sikkim has one of the most varied landscapes in the world, and the plan was to climb out of the tropical rainforest into the arid landscape and sub-zero temperatures of the mountains above

the clouds. We had dzoos (a kind of domesticated yak) and porters, cookboys (with a cage of five chickens) and Sherpa guides, but the trek, especially the final scramble to 16,200ft, was to be undistilled effort. Whether this was pleasurable or masochistic, I couldn't decide as we set off in single file through the rhododendrons and banana trees, avoiding the swaying horns of the dzoos.

We climbed steadily through a botanist's paradise of orchids and giant magnolias framed by dripping trees. I felt exalted as we hunched on

**My heart banged, my eardrums throbbed**

yak salami and baked beans by the roaring waters of the Prang Chu river, feeling ready for the pull upwards to its glacial source in the mountains.

Four hours on, after climbing from 5,500ft to 9,000ft, it was a different story. We were in the clouds, in the Tibetan refugee village of Chokha, the last human dwelling place on our journey. But I was looking at my feet, on which four strawberry-blistered blisters had emerged, forming haloes around pieces of sticking plaster. More ominous, as we settled down in the hut for our last night under a roof, the others were gobbling tablets to combat the effects of altitude. Not only was I destined to be a cripple, I had visions of going

round the bend with mountain sickness. But next day, with my boots stuffed with wads of the *Hindustani Times* and a crutch cut by a Sherpa, I hobbled onwards and upwards as the plants grew scrawnier and the air thinner.

The stark landscape contrasted profoundly with the warm jungle through which we hacked our way just days before. Every potential summit it turned out to be a false one as we climbed relentlessly. But the reward was to come. At Dzongri, nudging 13,000ft, we got our first panorama of the awesome Himalayan range. The granite peaks, with their thick hood of ice, were tinged lemon yellow in the autumn sun. At their centre was our destination, Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world, its peak still unconquered in deference to the gods thought to inhabit it.

Surprisingly, the mood among the others was deteriorating. The corporate gung-ho had slipped as we pursued a switchback over the hillsides. At the same time, the temperature was dropping fast. One of the party had become delirious with the combination of altitude and flu, and was dispatched downwards with a party of Americans going the other way; another was getting headaches; two others were starting to lag behind. By the time we got to Thangsing at 12,467ft, spirits were at our lowest ebb. Even a chocolate cake made by the cookboys, using some of the last eggs of the final chicken which we had eaten for supper yesterday, failed to lift the gloom as we sat muffled up around the Tilly lamp in the yak hut.

On everyone's mind was Goeche-La, the high point of



Onward and upward, the trekkers in Sikkim toil along the trail between Dzongri and Thangsing towards their ultimate goal, Goeche-La at 16,500ft

the trip, 16,500ft up the slopes of Kanchenjunga — beyond the security of the pack animals, porters and cookboys and, more worryingly, beyond easy rescue. And at that height the air would be thin enough to defeat even the most professional mountaineer.

Next morning, as I scrubbed up outside my tent, noting how quickly the washing water turned to ice, I had a revelation: I could wiggle my toes freely in my boots for the first time without pain. Had it not been for the knife-like cold, there would almost have been a spring in my step as we

headed for our final camp site by the emerald waters of the holy, but wind-whipped, Samat lake at 13,250ft.

I wasn't sure whether it was altitude sickness or just a normal kind of madness as I found myself agreeing to join the group that would go to the top. There would be eight of us, including two Sherpas.

Fortified with a breakfast of malted milk biscuits and Dextroal tablets, we set off at 2:30am, to maximise the hours of daylight for our return. Torches bobbing, we climbed ankle-deep in the waters of the stream that fed the receding

lake below. For four hours until daybreak we scrambled up rocky moraines, the sharp edges of rock slashing at our boots, each stride seeming a huge achievement in the meagre atmosphere.

The sun rose to reveal Goeche-La before us, but at altitude distances are deceptively foreshortened, and we walked seemingly endlessly through a moonscape devoid of any vegetation, except algae splashes on the rocks and the occasional lotus flower.

At 15,250 ft, two of the final party decided they could go no further; they would shelter

and wait for the rest of us to return. We went on, coaxed goat-like from crag to crag by the two Sherpas. I stumbled along behind, fuelled by my final packet of Indian fruit gums. My heart banged and my eardrums throbbed as I scrambled up the final bit of scree to the tattered prayer flags flapping in the sun at the summit.

With childlike exultation, the whole party linked arms and triggered our camera self-timers to capture the moment we had all become heroes.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS

### Getting there

□ The author was a guest of Himalayan Kingdoms, 20 The Mall, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 4DR (0117-923 7163), and flew with Thai Airways International (0171-499 9113).

□ The next three expeditions to Sikkim depart on Oct 13 and Nov 1, 1995, and April 5, 1996. Expeditions last for 20 days and cost £1,950 all inclusive.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

MACACO

(b) Originally, a South African monkey incidentally described by Maregrave in his *Natural History of Brazil*, and after him by various writers on zoology. Subsequently applied to any monkey of the genus *Macacus*. From the Portuguese *macaco* monkey ape, whence *macaque* to ape. "Of the monkeys of the ancient continent, the first he [Baboon] describes is the *Macaco*, somewhat resembling a baboon in size."

MOOL

(a) To associate intimately with, transitively, to crumble bread into a bowl in order to soak it in liquid, apparently though inexplicably from *mool*. "Though I ken I'll soon be in a world o' spirits, an' that I maun mingle an' mool wi' them for ages."

LAVADERO

(c) A place for washing gold ore, from the Spanish *lavar* to wash. "To these mines belong three lavaderos together having 161 troughs."

MOSCHIFEROUS

(e) Bearing or producing musk, from the Latin *moschus* musk + *fero, ferre* to bear, carry and numerous related meanings. "The moschiferous glands of the musk deer."

## Last embers of Empire



George V, the Emperor of All India, and Mary, the Queen-Empress

The taxi driver is having trouble finding Coronation Park. Maybe leftwards, he says, and the rupees clock up on the meter as we leave tourist Delhi far behind.

We're looking for "the Britishers' graveyard", one of the saddest relics of the Raj — a place well off the map and long-forgotten by almost everyone we ask for directions.

We turn on to the ring road, where washing dries on the hard shoulder and cattle graze on the traffic islands. We meander round streets of ramshackle stalls selling cauliflower and bicycle seats, padlocks and garlands of marigolds.

At the last set of traffic lights before oblivion, an old man cleaning shoes at 5p a pair points us up a long, flat road beyond an army camp. There, over on the left, looming imperiously and imperially over the trees, is the man we come to see — George V, King of England and Emperor of All India.

The driver checks his meter, smiles, and starts polishing the windscreen. This scrubby wasteland, patrolled by scavenging dogs, is the place where the British Empire blew one of its loudest, and most belated, fanfares.

One December morning in 1911, the imperial sun that would never set blazed down on the most spectacular of Royal Durbars; all elephants and ermine, all plumes and pageantry. A crowd of 300,000 heard the king announce the transfer of the imperial capital from Calcutta to Delhi. King George then, as the obelisk on

the site of his throne roared, received from the princes and peoples of India their dutiful homage and allegiance.

Today, three men are leaning on the obelisk, knocking back cheap whisky. From across the path, the king glares at them. His statue stands with its back to the city on a towering plinth. His arms are folded over orb and sceptre, his robes cascade around him, and he frowns grimly northwards, past a group of young men washing under a standpipe.

He once stood under a grand canopy at the heart of the New Delhi, built after the Durbar, but independent India had no place for him and he was dumped here, along with the rest of the colonial statues. Four or five of them survive in a crumbling crescent; unpromising men with waxed moustaches and bouquets of medals on their chests. The Empire, their gaze assures you, would last forever. In fact, it was already almost over.

"Coronation Park" sneers an old republican. "The Britishers' graveyard." With the right taxi driver, you can have a real Pomp and Circumstance of an afternoon, looking for what remains of

the Raj in Delhi. Most of it is in the once-fashionable north of the city, now rundown, screeching with traffic and dominated by the concrete Inter-State Bus Terminal.

St James Church, high-domed and canary yellow, with a Victorian stained-glass window, shows a perfectly Anglo-Saxon Christ ascending to a pure blue heaven. Plaques and gravestones mark past congregations... Lieutenant Charles McMullin of the 24th Punjab Infantry, Thomas Theophilus Metcalfe, British resident at the Mughal Emperor's Court; Thomas Collins, killed

in the Indian Mutiny along with his wife, son, mother-in-law, three nieces, three grand-children, four sisters-in-law and seven nephews...

Green parakeets clamber up the slatted window blinds, pigeons dodge the swishing ceiling fans, and men in mothballed Nehru suits and sallow old women in shawls clutch their English hymnals. In ready union, they beseech God to be their guardian and their guide. Afterwards, tea from trestle tables on the lawn and "How lovely to see you". St James gives dignity to the dead British. Nicholson Cemetery, just up the hume-choked road, gives them only paths. This rambling, overgrown half-acre, hemmed in by modern Delhi, is the most forlorn monument of Empire.

Crows circle overhead, angels weep and monkeys scramble over the tombs of young officers' wives who survived just a few months in India. Between them are the graves of their infant children... "Poor Little Willie" and "Our darling girl Monica".

Lothian Road Cemetery is an intriguing contrast. Almost unnoticed between a tea stall and a railway bridge, it has been revitalised by the Indian passion for recycling. The graves of the magazine sergeants and the Conductors of Ordnance have been used as the basis of a small village, built like the city itself on the remains of its own past. The neat homes have hand-painted plaques ("E.P. Nath, Retd Police Officer"), washing lines are strung between the tombs, and men lounge their afternoons away on *charpoyis*, Indian rope beds. Two women are sewing a scarlet sari on a 1930s Singer. A painted cardboard angel hangs between the trees next to them. "We're all Christian here," they explain, and

the Singer machine whirrs. The cemetery has all the improvisatory chaos of India that so alarmed the British. Sir Edwin Lutyens, George V's architect, had no truck with any of it. He drew straight lines and sweeping curves to impose order, to stamp "British Rules" on the new imperial capital.

Lutyens's broad, tree-lined boulevards converge on India Gate, with Raj Path marching powerfully up to the Viceroys Palace and the government buildings. Bleak and sun-scorched by day, they can seem as dehumanising as a parade ground. But on warm nights, families stroll by the roadside boating pools, eating ice cream and playing with balloons until long past the British bedtime.

This is the last ember of Empire but, for all its air of splendid inevitability, it was very much an afterthought. Lutyens's original plan was to build his New Delhi up at Coronation Park. But no, he finally said: too marshy, too high a risk of malaria.

In the shadow of King George, the young men finish washing under the standpipe, the taxi driver gives the windscreen a final polish, checks the meter again, and we leave king and courtiers in a cloud of midday dust. Thirty rupees waiting time," the driver whispers. And the dust settles back on the Empire.

STEPHEN MCCLARENCE

### Delhi flight and hotel prices

□ The author flew to Delhi with Air India, booked through Trailfinders (0171-938 3366). The cost of a return flight from London to Delhi, or nine other Indian cities, is £412 until June 23.

□ Rooms at the comfortable, mid-range Ambassador Hotel, Sujay Singh Park, Delhi (0091 11 463 2600) start at 1,075 rupees (£21) a night, with suites at 2,500 rupees (£50). Delhi has hotels and guest houses in all price brackets, from £100 a night luxury down to £3 budget.

□ The Government of India Tourist Office, 7 Cork Street, London W1K 1PS (0171-437 3670) can supply information and leaflets. In Delhi, the Tourist Office at 58 Janpath, organises efficient, good-value city sight-seeing tours, including Raj Path. The other sites mentioned in this feature are best reached by taxi.

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AMERICA: Tony Patrick visits New Orleans and Cajun Country, Louisiana ...

## Where happy hour can last all night

The music changed every few steps along Bourbon Street, in the French Quarter of New Orleans, but it was all loud and insistent. Dixieland, disco or cajun, spilling from the clubs and bars. At 1.30am the crowd was thicker than it had been all evening, the barkers waving signs and shouting sales pitches: "Happy hour from eight till two: three drinks for the price of one!" or "Topless and bottomless dancers ... male and female!" Strolling back from a blissful visit to the House of Blues, I swerved to avoid a smiling casualty of one too many Hurricane cocktails, and decided, with regret, that it was time to get out of town.

I had arrived two days before, via BA (Gatwick to Charlotte, North Carolina) and then a short hop on USAir, since BA as yet has no direct flights from Britain to New Orleans. A week would hardly be enough to do justice to the city, and I had only six days to sample both it and the simpler pleasures of Cajun Country, in northeastern Louisiana.

My time in the Crescent City passed in a blur of air-conditioned hotel rooms, vibrant restaurants, great music and some heavy-duty tourist attractions, from a superb Museum of Art in City Park, to a gloriously vulgar casino riverboat. The bars are open from mid-morning until the early hours, and this is a city which loves to eat and drink in company, anything from coffee and doughnuts to oysters and crawfish with beer, or buffets which would defeat a plague of locusts.

The architecture, too, caters for all tastes, a jumble of styles and eras, the Quarter being endlessly attractive, while the mansions of the Garden District will make you think of *Interview with the Vampire* (Anne Rice owns several houses here). There are many houses within the city limits which evoke the distinct cultural inheritances of Louisiana, from the Spanish to the plantation owners, and you can stay in some of them at very reasonable rates.

Surf in shopping that encom-



passes factory-outlet malls, high-tone retailers, antique shops, voodoo emporiums and wonderful record stores and you can see a week is not long enough, even when the city is not celebrating Mardi Gras (a month from February 20, 1996) or the Jazz and Heritage Festival (the last weekend in April to first weekend in May). You might care to note that the hurricane season is June to November, and that temperatures and humidity in these months can be uncomfortably high.

But take the "Great River Road" north-west out of New Orleans and you find yourself in another world altogether. Plantation houses such as Oak Alley, Houmas House and Nottoway — familiar from films — sit along the banks of the Mississippi. Colonnaded facades and tree-lined drives will tempt you to while away an hour in the company of knowledgeable volunteer guides, who conduct you around sometimes modest interiors, and perhaps sell you a mint julep or a glass of real lemonade. Several plantations offer accommodation, in elegantly converted slave or bachelor quarters.

Soon you are in swamp country, crossing the Atchafalaya Basin on the I-10, a highway on stilts which, from a boat, stretches to the horizon in both directions, somehow emphasising rather than violating the serenity of America's largest undeveloped



Serenity: the Atchafalaya Basin, within easy reach of New Orleans but a total contrast to the clamour of the city



The French Quarter (left) and Houmas House, used in *Hush, Hush, Sweet Charlotte*



wetland. On a trip with one of the friendly Allmond family from McGee's Landing, near Breau Bridge, it was time for wildlife spotting. Alligators, being shy, are not often seen, but egrets, herons, turtles, snakes and occasional leaping fish punctuate the stretches of water, broken by stands of trees festooned with "Spanish Moss" or carpeted with waterchestnut. The silence is deafening; the fishing is fantastic.

On dry land, in this part of Louisiana you do a lot of dancing, listening or singing, especially in conjunction with eating. On Saturday morning, after a quick dance at Fred's Lounge in Mamou, we set off for another session at Mark Savoy's music store.

From there I went to the Acadian Village, which preserves the simple buildings of past generations, complete

with subsistence-level furnishings. Next came Eunice, the cultural heart of French Acadia. From its Liberty Theatre, there is a live broadcast every Saturday night, in Cajun French, featuring local singers, musicians and entertainers — and, of course, a recipe. Local guesthouses (I stayed at the Seale Guest-

house, outside Eunice) offer individual and fully equipped accommodation.

Every restaurant has a dance floor and at least a trio; every customer expects to dance: the locals go out three and four times a week to do just that, with children in tow. Two-step dancing, fiddleplaying and knowledge of the

cajun songbook is not an affectation. It's in their blood and in the air.

And it's not exclusive. At D.L.'s restaurant/dance hall, outside Eunice, my neighbour at the table insisted that I leave my "gator bites" and Budweiser and tread a measure with her. It might have been because she is running for mayor this year, but more likely it was friendliness: nobody is left out, from toddlers to crotch-hopping tourists.

Tourists are advised not to walk alone in certain areas of New Orleans, and to avoid ostentatious displays of money or jewellery. Outside the metropolitan area, however, you are more likely to die from over-eating or over-exercising on the dance floor than in a confrontation with the laid-back locals.

BA's fly-drive deals make independent holidays easy. There are guesthouses and simple motels at low prices, and a local breakfast will probably leave you satisfied until it's time for dinner.

### How to get there

☐ The author travelled as a guest of British Airways Holidays (01293 617000). Seven nights at the four-star Bourbon Orleans, including return flights Heathrow-Philadelphia-New Orleans, cost from £789 to £1,015 per person (two adults sharing a room).

☐ Fly-drive holidays, including return flights Heathrow-New Orleans and seven days' use of an "A" grade car, costs from £409 to £672 per person (two people sharing); £17 for an extra week.

☐ New Orleans (The Compass American Guides, £14.99) is a recommended guidebook.

☐ Contacts: New Orleans Bed & Breakfast, PO Box 8163, N.O. 70182 (001 504 331 7971); Louisiana Office of Tourism, PO Box 94291, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (001 504 342 8100).

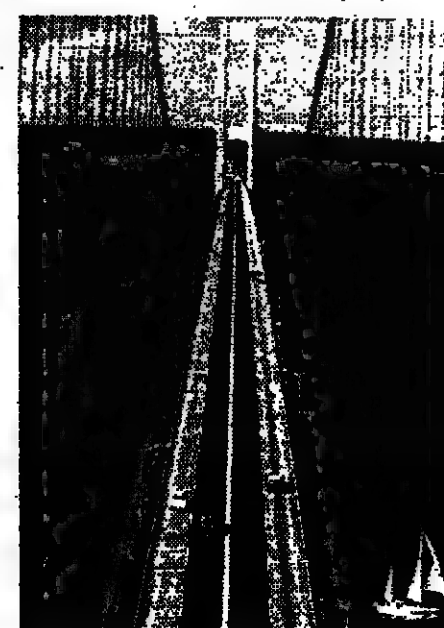


Nottoway is one of many plantation houses which offer accommodation

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January 1995



## TRAVEL

... and Joe Joseph finds stars and sleaze happily exist side by side in the sprawling Californian metropolis

Los Angeles can be too hot, too dangerous, too sprawling out, too obsessed with fame, and too easy to mock, which is what sophisticated east coast New Yorkers love to do, crackling jokes about how, when you get there, there's no there there, or about how sun-soaked California is a great place — providing you're an orange. Even Johnny Carson, who lives alongside the screen stars in the beach colony of Malibu, likes to sneer that "the only culture in LA is yogurt".

Oh sure, where else do you hear a person being described not as "friendly" or "a lawyer" or "a mother of two" but as "bankable"?

Where else can you refer freely in conversation to Arnie and Warren and Goldie and Jack as if Schwarzenegger, Beatty, Hawke and Nicholson were old buddies of yours, even though you have only seen them in Panavision?

For better or worse, Los Angeles — and the executives who run the film and television studios there — shape much of the way we think about the world.

They prick our desires, mould our expectations, sharpen our prejudices — some of them more than others; some of us more than others. In New York or London, Andy Warhol's quip about everyone being famous for 15 minutes is either a simplistic joke or a handy cliché for journalists with writer's block. In Los Angeles, it's a biblical commandment.

Even long-time natives jabber excitedly about how they spotted Michael Douglas in the drugstore and saw Cher collecting her dry-cleaning. Mention, as I did, that you saw Jay Leno driving through Bel Air in a black van with a cat in the passenger seat and you're quizzed for map grid references, make of vehicle, breed of cat, and so on: after a few days in the city you twig that this information is passed on knowingly in chit-chat a few days later as, "I hear Jay has a new black Ford and has swapped his terrier for a tabby". Sartre never mentioned anything about this kind of edification in *Being and Nothingness*, but in LA you are whom you have seen.

"How can one live in a city," Woody Allen summed in the film *Annie Hall*, "where the supreme cultural achievement is being able to turn right on red?" — let alone running the risk of being shot at by a bored driver while you're doing it: drive-by shooting is the way that LA people who can't afford lottery tickets keep themselves amused. Los Angeles is a place where you can be fined \$68 for jaywalking on a

## To live and buy in LA

deserted street but can carry a loaded handgun, no problem. Still, it makes no more sense to sneer at LA just because it isn't as highbrow as Manhattan as it does to look down your nose at Delhi because it isn't as rich as Beverly Hills. The city knows it is superficial, and is smart enough to make a feature of its froth.

Raymond Chandler reckoned that Los Angeles was "a city with all the personality of a paper cup". But what a paper cup. If you want to get in the mood for Beverly Hills, for example, wake up in your first morning, stroll straight past the hotel coffee shop, and head for breakfast in Starbucks, which is a paper cup, take away coffee bar with attitude, ordering breakfast in Starbucks is about as gruelling as life can get in Beverly Hills. For example:

Being oversized is a desirable attribute in LA

Café latte, please.

Do you want a tall or double latte?

Er...

Or a machiato latte? That's where we pour the milk in first and then the espresso.

How does the café latte come, then?

That's where we pour the espresso

in first.

I don't want a lot of frothy milk, like in a cappuccino.

Then maybe you want espresso machiato?

No, I want a big cup of hot coffee, but not drowned in milk.

I tell you what, I'll make you a tall double machiato latte. If you don't like that, I'll fix you something else.

Fine.

Now, milk. Do you want half-fat, non-fat, half-and-half? Do you want decaf? Want vanilla? What about some cinnamon?

If you take any kind of sweeteners — white sugar, raw sugar, Sweet 'n Low, and so on — expect to add another ten minutes to this selection procedure.

But what if there is to be no coffee at all, especially since you won't be wanting to spend your evenings in the rougher parts of town, where the locals regard you as a mobile shop-window insurance — only with real money and our keys in the coat pockets, from which they can take what they want? In fact, you don't want to spend your days in these neighbourhoods either. There are sleazy parts of every major city. London and Paris have them too. No need to go abroad to walk on the wild side of town. When in

Los Angeles, stick to the posh bits and you'll have much more fun. Even better, hire yourself a stretched limo — which will definitely arrive with a bar, television, video, and may even come with a Jacuzzi — because it could work out much cheaper than watching a taxi meter click up as you crawl through traffic jams from one end of the city to the other. Some of these limos are so long that you are the traffic jam.

Stretched limos with darkened windows aren't just for

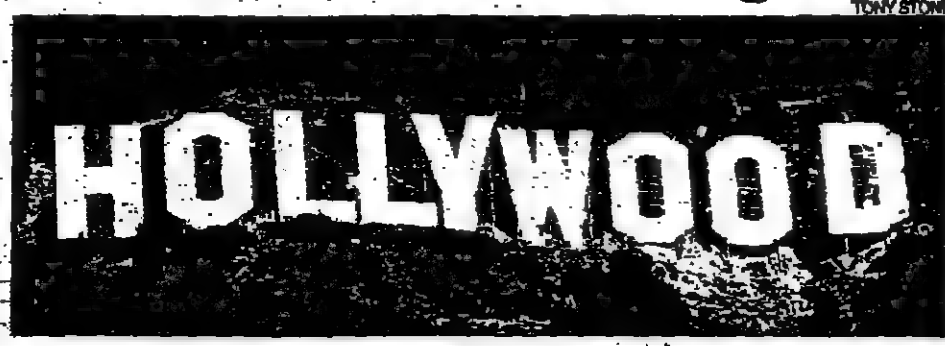
movie stars in Los Angeles. Teenagers hire them to go to their school prom. So to stand out from the crowd, yours has to be extra-long or extra-squipped. Some are so long that the weather on the bonnet can be different from the weather on the boot.

The adjective they use here is "oversized", which is a desirable attribute in LA. The stretched limos are oversized, the sleeks they serve in restaurants are oversized, the designer coffees in Starbucks are oversized: even the marble

bathrooms in the Beverly Wilshire Hotel (where, if you ask nicely, they will let you peek inside the Veranda Suite, which Warren Beatty rented for years before settling down to fatherhood) are oversized.

So are the price tags. If you want to spend as much on a key-chain as you normally spend on a new car, try shopping on Rodeo Drive, which the local hoteliers refer to as "an area of exclusive shopping", just in case you were worrying you might have to rub shoulders with Mrs

Los Angeles is hooked on the tacky glitz of Hollywood and the doctrine of the motor car



Los Angeles is hooked on the tacky glitz of Hollywood and the doctrine of the motor car

Ordinary Housewife buying cornflakes (you often need an appointment to browse around some of the snootier shops, which actually wince at the word "shop" and prefer to be known as "designer showrooms").

But if you want to plug into local culture, join a bus tour of the stars' homes and tune into LA's wavelength. Stare at the present and former mansions of Mary Pickford and Lana Turner, Lucille Ball and Tom Jones, Ronald Reagan and Dean Martin. The guide will even tell you which day the garbage cans are put out if you fancy rummaging in Barbara Streisand's trash.

"Who lives there?" I asked, trying to get into the swing of gawping at mansions. That

house? replied the guide. "Oh, nobody famous."

which is Beverly Hills-speak for "nobody worth thinking twice about". When I asked the guide if anyone had ever jumped off the famous white Hollywood sign overlooking the valley, she said a woman

called Peg Entwistle committed suicide there 60 years ago, depressed at her falling acting career. "But at least that way she got famous," explained the guide, without any apparent irony. "Nobody would have heard of her otherwise."

The lawns in front of these mansions — which range in style from half-timbered Elizabethan, through turreted French châteaux, right up to Bauhaus — run right down to the kerb, to deter anyone who might think of walking down the street (in Los Angeles, walking is something you do on a Treadmaster machine at your gym). And planted in those lawns is a placard that you might expect to announce "Keep off the grass" but in fact reads "Any invasion will be met with an armed response".

In Beverly Hills, beggars and hobos are scooped up like stray dogs and dumped several miles away in poorer parts of town, and the local police get to the scene of a crime within three minutes, which is the fastest response time of police anywhere in America. As Philip Marlowe liked to say, law is where you buy it. In Beverly Hills, they can afford the best.

Hollywood itself is a sleazier quarter than most visitors might imagine. Few visitors linger longer than it takes to look at the famous handprints

of film stars outside Mann's Chinese Theatre (known as Grauman's in the days when it hosted glitzy premieres) or to peer at the 1,500 star names studded into the pavement of Hollywood Boulevard — unless they have come to Hollywood to stare at the area's prostitutes, junkies, massage parlours and loonies.

The other big attraction for those seeking to escape the unreality of Beverly Hills is the tour of the Universal film studios, a world of make-believe where old film sets you last saw in *Psycho* or *The Addams Family* come back to life. The tour tram trundles through earthquakes, survives attacks by King Kong and an intimidating lurch from the shark from *Jaws*, and negotiates flash floods and collapsing bridges. You won't have to walk more than four yards before hitting a food stall or a souvenir shop.

The highlight is the *Back To The Future* ride, which involves sitting in an eight-seater De Lorean car suspended in mid-air, which ducks and dives in front of a movie screen, giving you all the stomach-churning thrills of speeding over mountains, plunging into valleys and crashing through time zones without the bother of clambering onto a roller-coaster.

Santa Monica is livelier than Beverly Hills and has the advantage of being on the coast, although the water can be chilly for swimming and surfing. South on the coastal road is Venice Beach, which is full of performing artists and kooky beach life on weekends. North is the Getty Museum, which has every sort of art that money can buy — apart from *The Three Graces*, of course.

Let's face it, nobody needs to go to Los Angeles. All of us brought up on American sitcoms and Hollywood movies feel we already know LA intimately and would recognise it even though we may never have set foot there. Certainly, you should think twice before packing your furniture and moving. But for a glimpse of a mirage city built in the middle of a desert with imported palm trees, full of imported people whipping up fantasies for us to watch on our screens, it is a fascinating place to visit. Think of it as a drive-by holiday.

The author was a guest of Continental Airlines (0800 776464), which has daily flights from Gatwick to Los Angeles via Houston or Texas, starting from £388 return.

Rooms at the Regent Beverly Wilshire (UK toll free number: 0800 526648, or direct on 001 310 275 5200) range from \$255 (£160) to \$405 (£255) for a single room, and \$275 (£170) to \$425 (£265) for a double; tax of 15.2 per cent on top.

Snooty shops are called designer show rooms



The desert garden

## Art and soul of the desert

ACCORDING to Cole Porter's *Blue Boy Blues*, Gainsborough's "The Blue Boy" portrait must have felt "bluer and bluer" as a result of being moved from London to the Wild West.

But Porter need not have been so worried. "The Blue Boy" looks perfectly at home in the Huntington Gallery in San Marino, on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

And he has every reason to be satisfied. For there can be few better galleries in the world.

Were he to step down from his frame, the boy could enjoy paintings by Constable, Hogarth and Turner. Then he could visit the library and inspect a Gutenberg Bible or an illustrated manuscript of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, or browse through a matchless collection of early Shakespeare editions or original writings by Washington and Lincoln.

But his biggest treat would be the 130 acres of the old ranch that have been transformed into 15 different gardens.

This variety is made possible by subtle differences in micro-climates. My own favourites are the Japanese garden — wonderfully formal and serene in the relative coolness of its shallow canyon — and the 12 acres of desert garden — offering on its hot, south-facing slope a richness of shapes, colours and sizes that I had never imagined any desert could possible nourish.

ERIC JACOBS

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## TRAVEL

WALES: Forty years on, Luciano Pavarotti is returning to the small town of Llangollen in the hills of Clwyd



1955: Luciano (left) and his father Fernando (right) and the winning Modena male voice choir at Llangollen

## No one leaves until the fat man sings

We are going to put your little hovel on the map, an impatient member of Luciano Pavarotti's entourage told Maureen Jones during negotiations over the tenor's appearance at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod next month.

The eisteddfod marketing manager was incensed. "Excuse me," she countered, "but we put your little tenor on the map." Which, apart from the "little", was strictly accurate. It was while competing at Llangollen as a member of the prize-winning Modena Choir in 1955 that the 19-year-old Pavarotti was enthralled to hear The Gobbis perform at a celebrity concert. There and then he forsook all thoughts of becoming a teacher in favour of an operatic career.

Every year, this town with a population of only 3,500 indulges in a blaze of hospitality that sees an



Pavarotti: emotional return

influx of 120,000 competitors and visitors from all over the world and ensures that "eisteddfod" (a gathering) is possibly the best-known word in the Welsh language.

Pavarotti makes no secret of his affection for the small town that played such a vital role in his life, and on July 9 — exactly 40 years

after his last appearance here — he will be singing at the closing concert of the 49th international eisteddfod. As before, his father, Fernando, and the other members of the Modena Choir will be on stage, but this time Luciano will be the star.

The eisteddfod organisers, led by chairman Gethin Davies, have been pursuing their elusive quarry for years and finally pinned him down after a performance of Tosca at the New York Met. He told them that in addition to choir members he would be bringing 180 friends and relatives to what will undoubtedly be an emotional event. Rumour has it that a bed in a local hotel is being reinforced. Eighty-five pound tickets for the new arena opened by the Queen in 1992 were sold out six months ago, but for £17.50, promoters will be able to see the performance on a giant outdoor screen. This year no one

will go home till the fat man sings.

The eisteddfod aside, Llangollen has much else to commend it. If anyone put this town on the map, it was not Pavarotti or even the eisteddfod pioneers. That role fell to Thomas Telford, whose 19th-century road and canal brought purpose and people to the area.

There can be no better antidote to a frantic drive, culminating on the engineer's A5 road, than a gentle trip on Telford's hillside canal. Being pulled along by Sam, an eight-year-old shire horse, the visitor relaxes in a flat-bottomed boat as a panorama of church spires and grey slate roofs unfolds.

As we gurggle through the clear canal water, which is bound for the domestic supplies of Nantwich and Crewe, we are easily outpaced by a train drawn by a steam locomotive. Since 1968, when Dr Beeching attempted to reverse Telford's good work, Llangollen has had only five

miles of track, relaid and operated by a preservation society. Trains run four times a day between May and October.

Fittingly, the town is the focal point of a natural amphitheatre formed by the surrounding hills. The bridge around which it has grown up was first built before the days of Owen Glendower. It was rebuilt in Elizabethan times and widened most recently in 1969. Beneath it the white waters of the River Dee are treacherous enough to challenge the world's best canoeists in annual slalom contests.

Among those most opposed to the creeping industrialisation along the river banks at the start of the last century were Lady Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, who became known as the Ladies of Llangollen. The two ran away together from Ireland and set up

home at Plas Newydd, where their guests included such diverse characters as Lord Byron and the Duke of Wellington. They habitually dressed in top hats and riding habit, but the Walkman tape hired to visitors at their much extended and embellished farmhouse is a trifle equivocal on the precise nature of the couple's relationship.

If you follow the A5 across Llangollen bridge, it climbs 1,300ft towards the Horseshoe Pass. Wales's most dramatic natural switchback, from which you look up to defiant escarpments and down on swaths of conifers that weave camouflage patterns on the hillsides.

Returning to Llangollen, expect to annoy fellow motorists when you brake with little warning to negotiate the entrance to a caravan park and the ruins of Valle Crucis, a 13th-century Cistercian monastery. Castell Dinas Bran, another

dramatic ruin, is built on top of a conical hill that has an unrivalled view of the town. For me that view is worth the climb... just. Looking down on the tiny community, it is impossible not to marvel at its achievements over five decades.

Llangollen's genius has been to take a concept as essentially exclusive and nationalist as the eisteddfod and transform it into a festival of international brotherhood.

When the eisteddfod chairman is questioned about the event by outsiders, he urges them just to give it a try. If they don't like it, he assures them, he will personally refund their money. "I've never had to pay out yet," he says with a smile.

ALAN ROAD

● The writer was a guest of the Wales Tourist Board (0171-409 0969). For more information on the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod July 4-9, call 0178 860286.

The Dee bridge, around which the town grew up. Slalom canoeing contests are held here every year in the treacherous River Dee

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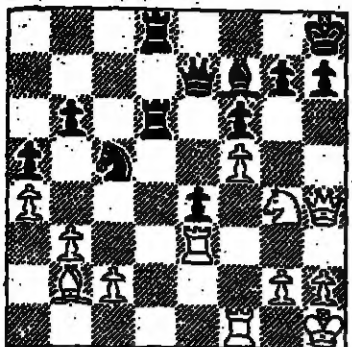






by Raymond Keene

I ALWAYS find it rewarding when readers write in with improvements over grandmaster practice. On January 24 I published as a Winning Move the following variation from the game Nunn-King, German Bundesliga, 1986. This position did not actually occur in the game, as Black was alert to his opponent's trickery. What did Nunn have in mind in this position? White to play.



The solution I gave was: 1 Rh3 Bg6 (1... h5 2 Nc6 and Black falls apart) 2 Ne5 and the threat of Ng6 forces Black to relinquish his queen. Mr C Willis of Orpington and Peter Wylie of Devon both suggest that Black should meet 1 Rh3 with 1... h5. Mr Wylie gives the further variation 2 Ne5 Rd1 3 Nd7+ Qx7 4 Qxh5+ Qxh5 5 Rh5+ Kg6 6 Kgl e3, when Black's threat with his passed pawn is decisive. This is correct and well spotted. Thus, we see, that White does not have an immediate way to pursue his attack after 1 Rh3 h5.

Nevertheless, with the simple retreat 2 Ne3, he leaves Black in big trouble, as he has created a horrible weakness on the kingside. White will follow up with g4 and obtain a very strong attack. In spite of all this, the defensive suggestion of 1 Rh3 h5 is a great improvement over 1... Bg6.

Some time ago I invited readers to submit examples of the king's own from their own games. I was delighted to receive the following miniature victory in the post, in which a queen sacrifice drags the black king to his doom.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Oll - Cvitan, Belgium 1993. White has a very active position for his sacrificed pawn but he must act quickly before Black has time to date with ... Ra8. Can you spot White's best continuation?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

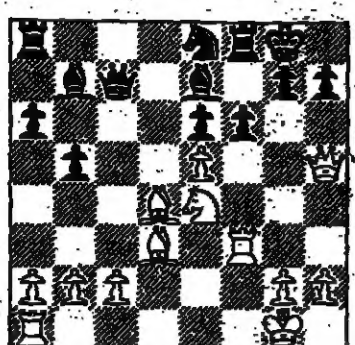
Last week's solution: 1 c8/Q.

White: W Marshall  
Black: J Marshall  
Dorking, 1991

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6  
3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6  
5 Nf3 Bc5 6 Bc4 Bb4

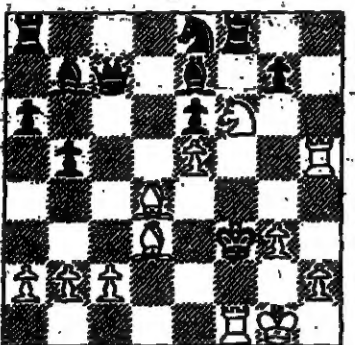
The Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defence, as popularised in the 1993 World Championship match between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short in London. 7 Bc5 Bc6 8 0-0 Nxd4 9 Bxd4 Bc7 10 f4 0-0. Black believes that his king is safe but White's next move creates a battery directed at the traditionally vulnerable spot, h7.

11 Bc3 Qc7 12 g5 Qd8  
13 Qd2 Ne8 14 Nc4 Nf6  
15 Qh5 Bc5 16 Rg2

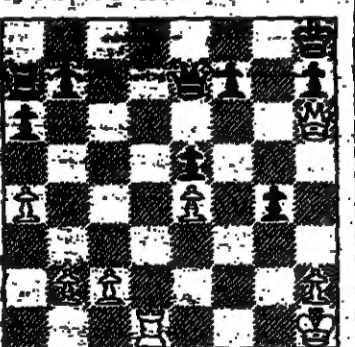


Black remains oblivious to his opponent's dark designs. It was high time to confront White's attack with either 16... f5 or 16... g6. White now gains the chance for the supreme sacrifice.

17 Qd7+ Kc7 18 Nc5+ Kb8  
19 Nc4+ Kg5 20 Rh5+ Kf4  
21 g5+ Kf5 22 Rf1



Last week's winners: P Gardiner, Colwyn Bay; D Knight, Dorchester, Dorset; A Hall, Goring-by-Sea, W Sussex.



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with the winning caption selected from those submitted.

Send your caption suggestions, on a postcard please, to:

Cartoon Caption 60, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, June 7.



The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by E. Mayall of Stoke Canon, Exeter

GLOBETROTTER Keith Houghton won't be reading this for a few days, as his fax from Hong Kong revealed. "I always read your column, albeit two or three days late," he explains.

"You mentioned a horse-racing game called, I think, Going Soft, or some such. I originally looked for it in Hong Kong but, even in this computer and horse-racing mad city, couldn't find it."

"I am shortly moving to New Zealand and I guess the chance of finding it there is even more remote." The answer, Mr Houghton believes, is to track down the game while on a flying visit to Britain between his flying reaches.

The game that you are after, Mr H, is actually called Good To Firm and it costs £25, including p&p, from the Scottish Independent manufacturer New Era Software, PO Box 19, Livingston, Scotland EH27 3EH (0131-333 4958).

Moving on, Alexey Pajitnov has a lot to answer for. He was the man who invented Tetris, the game

responsible for wasting more hours in offices and homes around the world than any other.

Now he hopes he has come up with something of a breakthrough in sequels with a game called Breakthru!

The game runs on Windows, is released in this country by Microprose and comes on two floppy discs, so that it doesn't make unnecessarily greedy demands on your computer.

Former world snooker champion Steve Davis has put his name to Interplay's Virtual Pool, which is also for Windows and on CD-Rom, but his involvement in the product is not obvious.

Unless he has now taken to talking with an American accent, either male or female, it would seem his involvement is nothing more than a calculated marketing ploy.

Still, playing pool seems simple enough, and there's a rewarding clunk each time you sink a ball. You can play alone, with a friend or against the machine.

Video footage demonstrates the rules of various versions of pool as well as ways to hone trick-shots. The best sequence, though, is a lightning look at the history of the game - delicious.

TIM WAPSHOTT

## BreakThru!

MACACO  
a. An almond cake  
b. A monkey  
c. A West Indian fighting cock

MOOL  
a. To mix intimately with  
b. A milking stool  
c. Lamb's wool

LAVADERO  
a. A mountain brigand  
b. A floppy raft  
c. Place for washing gold

MOSCHIFEROUS  
a. Breeding mosquitoes  
b. Like a handkerchief  
c. Producing muck

Answers on page 21

by Robert Sheehan

THIS is the hand of the year so far at TGR's bridge club.

♠A4  
♥AKQ2  
♦AJ2  
♣J1097

♠J10  
♥W  
♦E  
♣S

Contract: 6NT by South  
Lead: the king of diamonds

South opened 1NT (12-14). North bid Two Clubs (Stayman, for four-card majors), and South bid Two Spades. North now bid 4NT, asking South to bid on if he was maximum - the correct use of the bid. South interpreted it as Blackwood, and bid Five Diamonds. After this typical rubber bridge muddle, North bid an exasperated 6NT.

The poor contract was improved by the king of diamonds lead. You take the ace (East following low), and come to hand with the jack of hearts to play a low diamond towards dummy. West plays low, and the jack wins. East discarding a small spade. Now what should you do?

What happened at the table was that the declarer took a club finesse and lost to the bare king. This was the full deal:

♠A4  
♥AKQ2  
♦AJ2  
♣J1097

♠J10865  
♥43  
♦5  
♣66543

Dummy was quick to point out that the declarer should have played off the ace of clubs. As East had no more diamonds and the declarer only needed three club tricks, he could have afforded to lose a trick to East and still make twelve tricks. The gain in playing off the ace was in the small extra chance that the king of clubs was singleton with West. Eventually South agreed, but that was only the start of the analysis.

Better play by West is to take the queen when South plays diamonds at trick three. What should West play after winning the trick? Say he continues diamonds.

The declarer has only eleven tricks, but before taking the apparently inevitable club finesse, South might as well take all his side winners. He cashes three spades, noting West's discard on the third round, cashes the ten of diamonds and finally crosses to dummy in

♠4  
♥A  
♦J10  
♣W

♠J108  
♥W  
♦E  
♣K

♠KQ9  
♥W  
♦E  
♣Q

When the ace of hearts is cashed East is caught in a black suit squeeze.

The interesting point about the hand is that in three different variations best play by declarer will always catch West's singleton king of clubs. It is never right to take the club finesse.

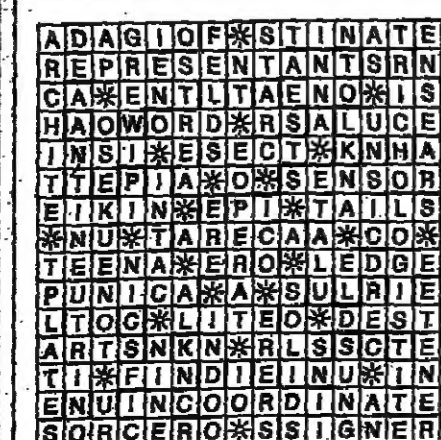
## THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3308: 802701 by Aldhelm

In celebration of a literary centenary, the answers to the italicised clues, which are normal, must be entered as suggested by the book - half in one way, half in the other way. Two of the remaining Across clues each consist of a definition of the full answer to be entered and an indication of the answer minus the last letter. These letters are the final destinations of two relevant groups, both of which are travelling in the same direction. Solvers must shade their whereabouts in the completed diagram. The remaining 14 Across clues each contain a redundant word, the initial letters of which, in clue order, might assist solvers in identifying the author. With the exception of the italicised clues, all Down clues and answers are normal. Except for one well-known proper name, all answers in the finished diagram are in *Chambers* (1993), though *The Oxford Companion to English Literature* (1985) might prove to be of further assistance.

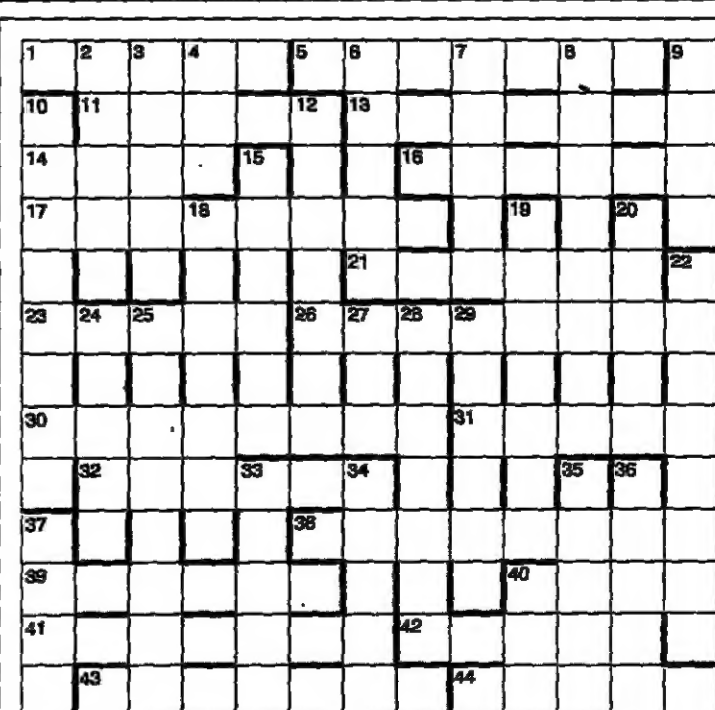
## ACROSS

- Song's second in musical pre-eminence (5).
- Hidden support for one profiting by mergers from the east
- Concert series prelude lacks energy (5).
- Good thinner artist exchanged for strong paintbrush eventually (7).
- In truth, receive a lot of sentimental glory (4).
- Blacken progressives in the Labour Party
- Unjust state condemned during strangely quiet ones (8).
- Ugandans get into concealment by set back area for antelope (6).
- Tourist resort experienced them first (5).
- Performance of young player starting to take shape of play with formality (8).
- The fellow can err outrageously as this criminal who left scene cunningly (8).
- Pet lemur belonging to doctor is missing tail (5).
- Reprove one thinking about atomic weapon (6).
- Fencer's shout to skirt impending blow (8).
- Almost scoff the last piece of Batterberg in full?
- Fly nervously, driven by fear in places (4).



## Solution to No. 3305 Sketch upon Grid F [by] Law DESIGNFUL PATCHWORK

Letters used: A C D E F G H I K L N O P R S T U V W X Y Z. Ignoring other letters as superfluous, the is SKETCH UPON GRID F LAW, and entrants are asked to draw a SOL at each letter. The grid is nine 5x5 'patches' put together, each containing two identical 'flaws' for eight in the case of the central patch, eg D (across) clashing with P (down) in the top left-hand patch. Taken in the natural order (left to right, downwards), the clashing letters spell DESIGNFUL (across) and PATCHWORK (down). Also, the flaws are arranged in the shape of a sol, where each patch supplies one of the nine lines (this is easier to see if shading is applied as suggested). (Note that each of the eight superfluous letters appears as often as the others in the clues - also, in fact, there is a SUN SIGN configuration in the lower right-hand corner.)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3308

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE.....

PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3308, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, June 15.

## No 486

## ACROSS

- Butterfly - Bell, 21 of V Woolf (7)
- African republic (4); for consumption outside (2,2)
- Severe experience (6)
- Mass departure (6)
- Watchman's pacing duty (5-2)
- Wishful expectation (4)
- German/Austrian/Swiss lake (9)
- Emile - Rougon/Macquart author (4)
- Dig in (8)
- Swiss melted cheese dish (4)
- Nun, senior nurse (6)
- Stare lasciviously (4)
- No, No - musical (7)

## DOWN

- Concurred (6)
- Night before (3)
- Sordid; quip (5)
- Pain in mouth (9)
- Bad-tempered (Disney dwarf) (6)
- Soft hat with band (6)
- Play for pair of actors (3-6)
- (Statistics) abnormally distributed (6)
- Glim (6)
- Agree to take (6)
- A tax-free saving scheme (5)
- Take legal action (against) (3)

## SOLUTION TO NO 485

ACROSS: 1 Step up 5 Buck 9 Rosemary 10 Baby boom 11 Sit 12 Clider 14 Addict 16 Burr 18 Poop deck 20 Dumbish 21 Idol 22 Myth 23 Rhymed  
DOWN: 2 Tawny 3 Penny 4 Pornographic 5 Bemused 6 Carol 7 Ask me another 13 Dervish 15 Cyclone 17 Unity 19 Daisy

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Crossword - Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each. Books 14 to 19 £5.99 each. The Times Crossword - Books 1 to 3 £5.99 each. Books 4 to 7 £4.99 each. The Times Crossword - Book 2 £3.99. The Times Junior Crossword - Books 1 to 3 £5.99 each. Concise Book 1 £5.99. SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORDS: The Sunday Times Crossword - Book 1 £6.99. Books 2 to 13 £4.99 each. The Sunday Times Concise Crossword - Books 1 to 3 £4.99 each. Book 4 £3.99.

Times COMPUTER CROSSWORDS: For IBM PC and Acorn Archimedes range 34 titles £4.95 each. Send SAE for details. Index £4.95 each. Send SAE for details. Prices include p&p. Send cheque with order payable to Alden Ltd, 21 Manor Lane, London NW9 5LH. Tel 0181-452 4525 (24 hrs). No credit cards.



*Chris Evans, DJ.*

**as it is**

**Serbs in firing says R**

## School bus are savings challenged

مسجد من المجلد